Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

A spokesman for Abu-Nidal's Fatah-Revolutionary Council denied any involvement in the assassination of PLO security chief 'Atif Busaysu and disavowed a communique claiming responsibility for the killing in the group's name, AFP reported. In a related development, PLO official Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and 'Arafat adviser Bassam Abu-Sharif blamed the Israeli intelligence service Mosad for the killing. An editorial published in Jerusalem's AL-SHA'B said Busaysu's killers injected "black venom" into the peace process, but vowed to "continue to chase the enemies of peace with more peace." In another development, Fatah and Hamas announced an 11-point agreement aimed at minimizing conflict between the two groups. The accord also calls for talks aimed at incorporating Hamas into the PLO framework, AL-SHA'B reported.

Israel

The defense establishment decided to "further" ease the closure on the Gaza Strip, according to Jerusalem radio. Although many restrictions remain, Arab workers over the age of 25 will be allowed to leave for work in Israel, and they will no longer be required to leave in groups of 10. Meanwhile, police denied a group of settlers access to Ginat on 9 June, according to Jerusalem radio. The settlers left after receiving a promise from the defense minister's office that they would "soon be given permission to get to the site." In another development, Prime Minister Shamir said "there will be no elections to the national council in the territories in October," contradicting recent Palestinian declarations, Jerusalem radio reported. Shamir said that "Israel agrees to negotiations on the elections." In the occupied territories, circumstances surrounding the death of 17-year-old Samir 'Umar remained "unclear" following his release from a Shin Bet interrogation center, DAVAR reported. Before his death, the youth complained to his family that he had been starved, placed in a freezing room, and struck with karate blows to the thighs, testicles, and the back of his head.

Iraq

The awqaf and religious affairs minister condemned the "inhuman and unethical treatment" of the country's Hajj pilgrims at the hands of Saudi authorities, INA reported. "Hundreds" of pilgrims suffered sunstroke after they were detained in the desert, prevented from going to Medina, deprived of food and water, and sent to live in tents lacking "the most fundamental means of comfort." In another development, a pipeline project linking the pump station in al-Zubayr with the oil receiving system in al-Faw is now operational, according to INA. The pipeline gives the Southern Oil Company "a large oil exporting capacity through Iraqi ports," according to the director general of the Oil Projects Company. The pipeline is 101 kilometers long with a pumping capacity of 1,017,000 barrels per day. Meanwhile, radio, television, and telephone services were restored between Baghdad, the western cities of Iraq, and Amman as of 1 June, according to THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER. Separately, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation sources "expressed optimism" over this year's wheat and barely harvest, INA reports. Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Dulaymi said "it is a very good season" despite the UN sanctions. In other reports a conference of "various opposition factions" will be held on 16 June in Vienna, according to AL-BAYAN. The aim of the conference is to reach an accord between the opposition groups, form a coalition government inside Iraq or in exile, and elect a transitional national council. "Liberal and progressive parties" as well as "a number of independent political personalities" have been invited.

Saudi Arabia

Riyadh "categorically denied" the "false and completely unfounded allegations" made by Iraqi Minister 'Abdallah Fadil that 10 Iraqi pilgrims died from Saudi ill-treatment, SPA reported. SPA further reported that "a number of Iraqi pilgrims have praised the great services extended by the Saudi Government to all pilgrims and expressed their thanks" to the Saudi Government.

Libya

"Revolutionary Forces" gained control over the JANA press agency as well as AL-FAJR AL-JADID newspaper, according to a statement carried by JANA's Arabic-language service. A communique released by the group denounced Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's pan-Arab and Islamist policies.

Iran

The four "main perpetrators" of the Mashhad riots were executed by hanging on 10 Jun, Tehran radio reported. They were charged with "creating terror and fear" and "plundering government and private property," among other things. Others involved in the riots were sentenced to long- and short-term prison sentences and "flogging in proportion to their crimes," according to the radio.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Condemns Busayso Assassinatio

NC0906145592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1311 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA)—The Arab League S tariat condemned yesterday's assassination of tinian struggler 'Atif Busayso in Paris.

In a statement issued today, the Secretariat ac Israel of carrying out the crime at a time when Ara international efforts are being exerted to establish and permanent Middle East peace.

It said that at a time when the Arab countries have all they can to help bring peace and stability t Middle East, Israel continues to take the opp approach, using oppression and violence against tinian individuals and institutions inside and outsi occupied Palestinian territories. It continues to es bate the situation by deliberately depriving the tinian people of their most important resource Palestinian people.

The Arab League statement said that Israel is explo the current election campaign by adopting a poli increased violence against Palestinians, the most r example of which is the assassination of Palest official 'Atif Busayso. This ploy will not bring peac stability to Israel.

The League said that peace and stability can be cr only through a historic reconciliation and recogniti the national rights of the Palestinian people.

The Arab League calls on the international commu especially countries in a position of responsibili condemn all forms of assassination and to take measures to stop Israeli terrorism, all of which v the regulations of international law and resolution

The League warned of the consequences if these ter acts continue. It asked that action be taken to crea appropriate atmosphere for continuing the negotia process to reach a just and comprehensive Middle peace and to recognize the national rights of the P tinian people.

Islamic Affairs

'Deliverance From Pagans' Ceremony Held in M

Khamene'i Message Read to Pilgrims

NC0806101592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Jun 92

["Text" of Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's me read to pilgrims at the "deliverance from pagans" mony in Mecca on 7 June—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Last year was filled with rare and perplexing incidents. Apart from this, the growth of Islamic movements, the awakening of the Muslims, and their insistence on regaining their Islamic identity and on struggling against bullying and aggressive powers in many parts of the world—especially in dear Palestine and in some North African and Middle East countries—were among the outstanding marks of the past year. These important and exemplary incidents, most of which were directly or indirectly influenced by Islam, created a new situation for Islam and Muslims on the whole. It is the duty of all Muslim nations to correctly recognize this situation and adopt a united, worthy, and calculated position about it. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that the bullies of the world will not be content with hostility and will use all their financial, political, propaganda, and—if they can—military potential to show enmity as they have done so far. During the years after the victory of the Islamic revolution up to the present, the Iranian nation has felt this enmity. The large Islamic ummah has witnessed the animosity of world arrogance with Islamic Iran or with other examples of Islamic movements in other parts of the world. There is no doubt that the indifference by Muslim nations toward this situation encourages the enemy and places the pious believers of Islam in a tighter spot each day.

The Muslims of the world should show that the world of Islam is capable of confrontation and that it can resist the aggression and enmity of America and of any other aggressor. Until now all the irreparable damage that has been inflicted on the Islamic ummah by yesterday's colonialists and today's arrogant powers has primarily stemmed from the weak morale of governments or nations. Resistance annoys the enemy and thwarts its efforts to achieve its haughty objectives. Had the Palestinian leaders and nation shown the same devoted courage that the Islamic intifadah is showing in the face of the Zionists today at the time of the establishment of the usurper Zionist regime, they could have prevented the present tortuous and poisoned predicament Palestine is in. If the leaders of Islamic movements and pious people solve the problems of their struggle today, the Islamic ummah will have a sweet future ahead.

Arrogance does not recognize any limits in its aggression against Muslim nations. Today the usurping Zionists, with the total support of the United States, have gone so far as to negate the Palestinian nation and they refuse to recognize the reality of the Palestine nation. [passage omitted]

In Islamic countries where the people are bound to Islam with extremely strong ties, as in the newly independent republics, which are so zealously and enthusiastically speaking about Islam despite 70 years of communist de-Islamization efforts, anti-Islamic powers go so far as to speak of the threat of Islamic tendencies in these countries and to portray these nations' sweetest devotion

as a threat. This impudence by arrogance and its elements should be answered with a general determination and a coordinated attempt by nations and by each and every Muslim to free Muslim nations from the plots of arrogance.

The Muslim governments' negligence in their fight against the usurper Israeli regime persuaded the Americans to stage direct talks between the Arabs and Israelis and unfortunately some of the Arab leaders, without realizing the extremely profound consequences of this blow by arrogance, gave in to this disgrace. The only outcome was that the usurper Israeli Government achieved its objective of being recognized by the Arab states without retreating a single inch from its aggressive positions. [passage omitted]

I draw the attention of the heads of Islamic nations to the immense power they have in their hands, the power of the Muslim nations. Backed by this invincible power, Muslim governments can withstand the American superpower, which is leading the anti-Islamic front of arrogance today, and they can defend the rights of their nations and of the oppressed Muslim nations. Islam is the best guarantor for the management of the life of a nation. Under its aegis, nations can benefit from complete freedom and independence, and the Islamic faith of all the people in Muslim countries is the best support for this. [passage omitted]

I state to the Islamic nations and to each and every Muslim that the cure to all ills and shortcomings faced by Muslim nations is the return to Islam and living in an Islamic system under the aegis of Islamic teachings. This is what will bring back the grandeur and power of the Muslims, will grant them the great blessings of security and welfare, and will ward off the bitter and abject fate that arrogance has planned for them.

Arrogant propaganda against Islam, which is part of a new crusade, portrays Islam as being incapable of organizing the political and economic life of Muslim nations, which have no alternative but to live according to the criteria and the contents of the capitalist rules and systems of the West. This is a deceitful machination and lie that has been used for years to make Islamic nations dependent on the arrogant camp of the West, which exploits their material resources. The capitalist system of the West is entangled in the web of human problems that it cannot solve and despite the abundance of material resources at its disposal, it is absolutely unable to establish social justice. [passage omitted]

Islam can save Muslims and all of humanity, on the condition that it is correctly recognized and correctly observed. The Islamic system in Iran has, with God's help, become the manifestation of the power and capabilities of Islam and a solid experience for Muslims. This is at a time when out of its 13 years of life, eight years were spent in a war that was imposed on it according to the plans and on the basis of the animosity of eastern and Western arrogance, and at a time when before and after this war and up to the present it has never stopped being the target of the enmity and animosity of enemy camps.

The great Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, awakened the Iranian nation and armed it with a steely determination and devotion. This path now lies in front of all nations. All that is expected from Muslim governments may be realized through the will and determination of their nations. You should demand that your governments confront Zionism and arrogance, defend oppressed Muslims throughout the world, and strengthen unity and fraternity with other Muslim nations. In pursuing these lofty objectives you should be their devoted supporters. You should convince them not to fear America and to stand up to its bullying tactics. You should make them realize that Islam and the Koran are the only path to salvation and you should direct them to the strong fortress of believing there is only one God.

In this immense duty, the religious ulema, intellectuals, orators, artists, students, and youths have a heavier role to play and a heavier responsibility to bear. Women share this duty with men. This is what will make all of you worthy of the prayers of Abraham, peace be upon him, and will link you to that great prophet with a divine bond.

In conclusion, I advise the esteemed Iranian pilgrims to seize this valuable opportunity as best as possible to purify your souls and establish a bond with God, to repent, and to achieve spiritual revival; not to neglect one moment in praying, meditating, and purifying your soul; not to allow yourselves, God forbid, to be attracted to worthless materialistic signs, which can be found everywhere; and not to allow yourselves to be robbed of these exceptional days and hours devoted to spiritualism, improving souls, and establishing contacts with Muslim brothers.

May God make all of you worthy of divine blessings and of the attention and pure prayers of the imam of the ages, may our souls be sacrificed to him. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i
[Dated] 7 June 1992

Ceremony Described

LD0706223492 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Mecca, June 7, IRNA—Multitudinous groups of pilgrims held a gathering in this holy city to express "deliverance from pagans" of the time Sunday afternoon, chanting "Death to the U.S." and "Death to Israel."

Before the start of the ceremony, groups of pilgrims walked from various directions towards al-Mu'awidah Square, one of the main and great squares of Mecca, and held a gathering outside a building where the representative of the leader of the Islamic revolution is staying.

The pilgrims, braving a 43 degree centigrade temperature, held the deliverance from pagans ceremony at 1500 hours local time, watched by thousands of Saudi security police in uniform and plain clothes standing some kilometers away.

The holy city of Mecca assumed a new look when pilgrims started walking from the four corners of the city. Some 3,500 pilgrims with strips of yellow ribbon tied around their upper arms guided groups of people gradually arriving at the square.

All roads leading to the square came under control of thousands of Saudi policemen and security officers equipped with vehicles and other military hardware.

The participation of hundreds of foreign pilgrims especially black people from Africa and the United Nations in the ceremony was a manifestation of their Islamic bonds with their Iranian brethren and sisters in faith.

Efforts by foreign reporters and cameramen to file reports, film and take pictures of the ceremony were quite obvious so much so that at least seven to eight cameras were installed in a single rooftop of a building overlooking the square. The roof of a minibus parked near the square were packed with nearly 30 photographers trying to record the magnificent scenes of the ceremony.

The death to the U.S. and death to Israel written in Persian, English and Arabic languages were written on placards carried by the pilgrims.

The deliverance from pagans ceremony officially started at 1630 hours local time [1330 GMT] with some verses from the Holy Koran were recited. A crowd stretching for over 3 kms and numbering nearly 150,000 including many foreign pilgrims were present at the ceremony.

A resolution, read in both Persian and Arabic languages at the end of the deliverance from pagans ceremony said "our deliverance cry is the cry of all people who have lost patience with America's pharaoh-like behavior and its hegemonistic presence, who do not want their voices of anger and hatred to be silenced in their throats for ever and who want to live and die freely."

"Also we express our endless hatred of the tyrannical domination of the global arrogance led by the U.S. and from this holy place we condemn the American new order plot and call for establishment of Islamic justice for all the deprived and oppressed of the world," it said.

The resolution said the Islamic revolution and its leadership is the center of genuine Mohammadan Islam, true supporter of all freedom movements and a source inspiring hope in the hearts of Muslims and the oppressed people of the world, and backing it is a divine task.

Reiterating that Palestine is a holy Islamic land, the resolution said the only way to solve the Palestinian issue is the annihilation of the cancerous tumor—Israel. It also condemned any compromising solutions and voiced support for the Palestinian uprising, intifada.

Denouncing the massacre of Muslims in Palestine, Lebanon, Bosnia- Hercegovina, Kashmir, Iraq and Azerbaijan, the resolution urged the world of Islam to constantly support the Muslims of those regions.

The resolution expressed satisfaction with the victory of the Muslim Mojahedin in Afghanistan and with the return of the Central Asian republics to Islam following the collapse of Communism as predicted by the founder of the Islamic Republic, the late Imam Khomeyni. It also warned against the schemes of the global arrogance particularly the U.S. to penetrate those regions.

Castigating the cultural assaults launched by the West and the U.S. against sanctities of Islam and Islamic and revolutionary values, the resolution pointed out that the historical ruling issued by the late Imam Khomeyni against the apostate Salman Rushdie is still valid. It called on all Islamic nations and governments to give priority to a campaign against the West's corrupt culture.

Palestinian Affairs

AFP Cites Abu-Nidal's FRC on Busaysu Killing

Statement Warns Palestinian 'Traitors'

NC0906134892 Paris AFP in English 1310 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Tunis, June 9 (AFP)—The Fatah-Revolutionary Council (FRC) of Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] on Tuesday claimed responsibility for the assassination in Paris of the top PLO security official and warned that all Palestinian "traitors" would meet same fate.

The FRC, an extremist faction that broke with the PLO, said in a statement received here by AFP that 'Atif Busaysu had been shot to death by one of its commandos for having supplied European intelligence agencies with information on Palestinian figures. "One of our groups executed the traitor 'Atif Busaysu who over the past few years has provided European intelligence agencies with vital information on the status of several Palestinian groups, as well as leaders and officials," said the statement, dated June 8 from Beirut.

Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat accused the Israeli intelligence agency Mosad of the murder and an official statement from the Tunis-based PLO later vowed that the attack would be avenged.

The FRC statement described the operation as "a warning to the 'Arafat people of what will be the fate of all traitors to our cause."

The group charged that Busaysu had "revealed secrets about certain underground Palestinian cells, undermining their operations." It accused him of responsibility in "inter-Palestinian clashes in southern Lebanon, leading to the deaths of dozens of our militants."

Busaysu, acting PLO head of security was killed early Monday outside his Paris hotel with a pistol equipped with a silencer, police sources in sources the French capital reported. Shortly after the shooting, Palestinian sources in Amman pointed an accusing finger at Abu Nidal.

The sources said Busaysu, as did his slain predecessor Salah Khalaf (alias Abu-Iyad), had information on Abu-Nidal that he could have handed over to Western intelligence services. Abu-Iyad was assassinated in January 1991 by a bodyguard who is reported by the PLO to have confessed membership in the FRC.

The FRC statement charged that Busaysu had "continued along the perfidious path started by Abu-Iyad by setting up suspect links with enemy intelligence agencies in Europe and elsewhere."

FRC Disowns Communique

NC0906160492 Paris AFP in English 1519 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Beirut, June 9 (AFP) - The Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) of Palestinian extremist Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] here Tuesday denied involvement in the killing of PLO security chief 'Atif Busaysu.

FRC spokesman Walid Khalid said his organisation disowned a communique claiming responsibility in the name of the Abu-Nidal group that was received by journalists in Tunis earlier the same day. "Our movement has no link with this suspicious communique and no relation with the regrettable assassination of the late 'Atif Busaysu," the Palestine Liberation Organisation official gunned down early Monday in Paris, he said.

Officials Blame Israel for Busaysu Assassination

JN0906145592 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0920 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Amman, 9 Jun (PETRA)—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Information Bureau, has said that the crime of assassinating senior PLO official 'Atif Busaysu is part of a large-scale terrorist campaign being carried out by the Yitzhaq Shamir government against the strugglers of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories and part of a general campaign to create tension in southern Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

Answering a question by the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, he said that the crime, which was organized by the Israeli intelligence, practically proves that Israel has violated the pledge it made to the French Government not to practice terrorism in France, and that it is seeking once again to turn France and Europe into a theater for terrorism.

'Abd-Rabbuh wondered if European nations and the United States are going to demand handing over the Israeli criminals and carry out a campaign against Israeli terrorism and denounce it at the Security Council, as they use this slogan against other countries.

Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, also officially accused the Israeli Government of carrying out the operation.

In a press release issued yesterday, he said: We consider the assassination of struggler Busaysu an Israeli declaration of disregard for the peace process and an attempt to provoke Palestinians.

He urged the United States to stop Israeli terrorism in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and outside the occupied territories, as a necessary condition for peace.

Killing Undermines Peace Process

TA0906153592 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Jun 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Martyr 'Atif Busaysu"]

[Text] Those who planned the assassination of martyr 'Atif Busaysu, one of our national symbols, and killed him with a gun fitted with a silencer yesterday morning in the heart of the French capital were, by this despicable act, firing their black venom at the peace process—a process that is still feeling its way toward its desired goals and overcoming the obstacles and impediments that the enemies of peace are ceaselessly placing on its path.

His excellency President 'Arafat, with his shrewd perspective and sharp sense, while announcing the death of one of his comrades, affirmed yesterday that he had always warned of assassination attempts by the enemies of peace, who are trying to strike at the peace process and undermine it. This cowardly act was part of a systematic operation by the enemies of peace against those who are working to achieve peace and attain its goals.

It is worth noting that the timing of the operation, the precision of its implementation, and the disappearance of threads that might lead to its perpetrators are all signs that indicate the perpetrators' identity.

This bloody message to our people comes at a time when the four Arab parties taking part in the peace process, who concluded their meetings in Amman yesterday, have sent a message of peace, affirming their continued participation in the peace talks so that the objectives of the talks might be attained. The enemies of peace are annoyed by such a move toward peace. They are responding to the desire for peace with more assassinations, in order to create confusion and turn back the clock.

We believe the enemies of peace, who committed this act, would not have done so if they had not known that they would escape from any international response.

While asking God's mercy for martyr 'Atif Busaysu and while expressing our condolences to his relatives, we stress that our endeavor for peace stems from a strategic, not tactical, decision. We will continue to chase the enemies of peace with more peace.

Fatah, Hamas Agree To Coordinate, Avoid Conflict

TA0906185892 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Jun 92 pp 1, 11

[Text] The occupied territories—Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] announced yesterday their agreement to coordinate their activities in a bid to avoid the differences that damage those activities.

In an 11-point statement issued by the two movements yesterday and distributed in the occupied territories, they called for making joint decisions, especially about the killing of people suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities, and for halting clashes between the two movements' supporters.

The agreement also calls for more talks aimed at incorporating Hamas into the PLO's framework.

This agreement is an initial result of the intensive efforts seeking to close ranks and calling for national unity between all cadres and organizations, especially in the difficult conditions under which our Palestinian people are living, in order to realize their aspirations for freedom and independence.

Herewith is the text of the agreement reached yesterday as issued in the statement:

1. The two movements affirm their commitment to the 13-point agreement of 21 September 1991.

2. The two movements call on their cadres and the Palestinian people to pursue civilized dialogue.

3. The two movements particularly stress that people should not resort to force and inflict harm in resolving differences.

4. The two movements will set up a higher central committee, which will form field subcommittees on the basis of joint cooperation and coordination and the exchange of information.

5. The two movements believe that under no circumstances should disagreements turn into clashes.

6. The two movements stress that the two sides' detainees in prisons and detention camps be treated on the basis of equality and that Hamas be allowed to participate in the higher committees.

7. The two movements call for the renunciation of partisanship.

8. The two movements affirm that the agreement is the choice of a unified people.

tion and reflection on the issue of liquidating "collaborators," and that any such decision be made by the higher central committee.

10. The two movements condemn the cruel killings, particularly in Tulkarm, Rafah, and Salfit.

11. The two movements call for the continuation of dialogue between the PLO leadership and Hamas, with the aim of finding a just formula for the latter's joining the PLO equitably.

Hamas Denies Accord With Fatah

NC0906165392 Paris AFP in English 1631 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Amman, June 9 (AFP) - A Palestinian Muslim fundamentalist movement denied Tuesday it had signed an agreement to cooperate with the PLO's mainstream Fatah group in the Israeli-occupied territories. "We were surprised to see in the middle of our negotiations with Fatah that they unilaterally published this accord," Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] said in a statement received by AFP in the Jordanian capital. The agreement "does not necessarily represent the point of view and will" of Hamas, it said. "We denounce this irresponsible action on the part of the Fatah leadership."

According to a communique distributed Sunday in the occupied territories, the two sides had signed a 10-point agreement to coordinate the anti-Israeli uprising on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Hamas and the secular Fatah—main component of the Palestine Liberation Organisation—had also pledged to use democratic means to settle differences and condemned the use of force between Palestinian factions.

The two groups signed an accord in September 1991 but it was never implemented.

Cairo-Amman Bank Opens New Branch in Tulkarm

TA0906195892 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Jun 92 p 2

[By special AL-SHA'B correspondent]

[Text] Nabulus—The management of the Cairo-Amman Bank branches in the West Bank officially announced yesterday the opening of a new Cairo-Amman Bank branch in Tulkarm at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry building. The branch will be open to the public as of this morning, Sunday, 7 June. This step is within the bank's policy of expanding services to the public in the West Bank.

A new branch was opened at the beginning of last month in Bethlehem to provide services to the residents of Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur, Bayt Jala, and the outlying areas. It has been learned that two new bank branches will be opened within the next two months in Jericho various parts of the West Bank to nine.

Other steps will be taken soon to improve bank services to the public.

Results of Quadripartite Amman Meeting Criticized

TA1006041292 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 8 Jun 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "From Assessment to Appealing!"]

[Text] The Amman ministerial meeting of the Arab parties—Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine—taking part in the bilateral negotiations with Israel turned from a meeting to assess the results of five consecutive rounds of negotiations in Washington, and to reinforce more strongly coordinated actions between those parties themselves, into "a meeting of appeals" to the other Arab parties for solidarity among the venerable Arab capitals to protect pan-Arab rights in this decisive historical stage!

Hence, the statement issued yesterday at the conclusion of this meeting was purely routine. It also revolved around old Arab solidarity slogans, as if the political changes that have occurred and are occurring have not had a serious or a semiserious effect on the actions of the Arab parties—be they participating in the negotiations, observing them, or ignoring them.

In any event, the statement affirmed that the Arab parties will fly to Rome, as decided earlier, to participate in the sixth round of bilateral negotiations. The statement also affirmed that that round will take place after the Israeli elections on 23 June, while failing to mention a specified date. Those two affirmations did not surprise anyone, because they had been discussed on previous days. Therefore, the statement did not add anything new.

Although we did not expect the statement to reveal to us "the secret" plans and programs on which the Arab delegations will act at the upcoming sixth round, we at least expected a reference to some of the outlines of the Arab negotiating strategy in confronting the continuing Israeli intransigence, which has hindered the negotiations from the first day. What will be our future move, for example, if the Israeli Government continues its intransigence after 23 June?

U.S., Russia Urged To Back Territories Elections

TA1006041292 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic

[Editorial: "Toward Legislative Elections—Soon"]

[Text] Israel, in holding its elections for the 13th Knesset on 23 June, will not be alone. Nor will the United States be alone as it holds its presidential elections in October [month as published]. We, too, will hold legislative elections, in the occupied territories before the end of October 1992, in accordance with the announced program of the peace process.

Legislative elections are the inalienable right of all peoples. As informed observers are now saying, that right, which has been exercised lately by the Kurds for the first time in their modern political history under international supervision, should be exercised by us as well under the direct supervision of the peace conference's cosponsors, the United States and Russia.

Palestinian officials have spoken frankly about this important matter and have stressed that our elections, for which we are now preparing, will be held at its specified date, unless Israel prevents us from exercising that right then.

Although the current Israeli Government has not yet addressed this issue—either by accepting or rejecting the elections—it is essential for the cosponsors of the conference to announce early their decisive support for this right and its inevitable implementation.

Shamir's government might be unwilling to address this question now and might leave it for the government that will be established after 23 June, but despite Israel's unpublicized stance we are serious about realizing our right to legislative elections. At the same time we affirm that this is the broad conduit for the desired peace in the region in accordance with the resolutions and foundations of international legitimacy, on which peace is based.

If the Israeli Government agreed to our exercising our right to elections, we would regard that decision as a normal acceptance of our rights and not as a special favor. Rejecting that right would immediately reflect its practical rejection of the entire peace. In either case, it is we who are on the right path within the framework of the proposed settlement.

Algeria

French Minister Meets Boudiaf, Briefs Press

in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Excerpts] [Studio] Chairman of the Higher State Council, Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, this afternoon received Louis Mermaz, French minister of agriculture and forests, who has been paying an official visit to the Algeria since last Wednesday. The meeting was attended by the Algerian minister of agriculture and the ambassadors of the two countries. The French minister of agriculture made this statement when he left the Presidency:

[Begin Mermaz recording in French fading to Arabic translation] Mr. Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, received me, and we naturally talked about cooperation between Algeria and France in the sphere of the agriculture and food industry, because I am here at the invitation of my Algerian counterpart, Elyes Mesli. We also talked about cooperation between the two countries, about future visits by French ministers, and also about the files which we wish to tackle together.

The chairman of the Higher State Council expressed to me his hope that Algeria would develop and develop its relations with Europe and France, which plays an important role in the EC.

The chairman of the Higher State Council talked about the development of Algeria's economic power, and about his will to move forward toward democracy, true democracy.

Thus, there was a meeting about technical matters, and also about the political situation. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Studio] The French minister of agriculture and forests signed a protocol this afternoon with his Algerian counterpart at [Djenane] al-Mithak residence, and then held a news conference. Belkacem Djaafria has more:

[Djaafria] The two ministers signed a protocol between the two countries in the agricultural sphere before the news conference.

The news conference started with a question about French-Algerian relations. The French minister said they have not been severed, and the evidence is that I am here, and that there are other French ministers who will visit Algeria over the following days.

Are there tangible loans for the benefit of the Algerian agricultural sector?

Mr. Louis Mermaz contented himself by saying that we have provided loans, and the two governments are negotiating their use.

As for additional loans, the minister answered that these are under the discretion of the president of the Republic.

The French minister said that there are French companies that are interested in investing in Algeria, adding that before the Maastricht treaty is signed, we must help the Maghreban countries, in particular Algeria.

Agreement With Spain Concluded on Natural Gas

LD0806134592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] The final agreement was concluded today between Algeria and Spain relating to the purchase of Algerian natural gas by the Spanish ENAGAS company for a period of 25 years. Algerian natural gas will begin reaching Spain by the end of 1995.

A SONATRACH official said that extension of the gas pipeline toward Spain will also make possible the completion of the national network for the distribution of natural gas. In its decond phase, the project is also due to supply other European countries such as Portugal and Germany.

International Monetary Fund May Double Loan

LD0906162692 Rabat MAP in English 1312 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Algiers, June 9 (MAP)—The International Monetary Fund might double the loan amount it is planning to grant Algeria, initially set at 400 million U.S. dollars, the Algerian press said quoting "reliable sources".

The new loan, likely to amount to 800 million U.S. dollars, is destined to support the balance of payments. A delegation from the IMF is since last May 31 in Algeria for talks on reforms stepped up by the government.

The Algerian trade union "Ugta" said it is against the principle of talks with the IMF but did not rule out a purely formal meeting.

Algerian Premier Sid Ahmed Ghozali said if the country continues to devote 75 percent of its revenues to debt servicing, it will not be able to avoid the rescheduling of its external debt.

For Ghozali, the only way out for Algeria is to bring down the sum devoted to debt servicing to 30 percent.

Eyewitnesses Say 3 Policemen Killed in Algiers

LD0906140492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] According to eyewitness reports, three policemen were killed at dawn today, while others are still in a serious condition, following an attack by armed individuals on a checkpoint at the cement quarry in Rais Hamidou district, in the outskirts of the capital. This news has not yet been confirmed by the security services.

Opposition Leader Calls for National Conference

LD0606103592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Influential opposition figure comments on current political situation. After the chair out of the National Liberation Front, Socialist Forces men of the the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, s front, and time is that of Mr. Boukrouh, chairman of he turn this Algerian Renewal, who has described the att the Party of Higher State Council to the opposition as positive. Here are the details from Mohsen Slimani:

[Slimani] Pending the speech of the chairman of the Higher State Council which he will address to the people in the next few days, in which he will define the characteristics of the policy of dialogue with effective political forces, as already mentioned in the statement on a platform for a national rally where the political tendencies that are working for the national interest was raised, the opposition parties are intensifying their activities which give substance to the idea of national reconciliation. In this context, Mr. Noureddine Boukrouh, chairman of the Party of Algerian Renewal, told APS today that he regards the latest communique of the Higher State Council as a development toward openness to Algerian political circles and a rehabilitation of real political forces.

Mr. Boukrouh is of the opinion that on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of independence, the chairman of Mohamed Boudiaf can take the initiative of creating new political hope through consensus, by establishing a dialogue with the political parties. In this regard, he proposed that this take place in the framework of a national conference and not in a patriotic rally. [passage omitted]

More Detainees Released; 900 Total From 3 Centers

LD0906201392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] It has been learned from a well-informed source in the province of Adrar that 168 detainees were released today from the security center in Reggane. some 61 detainees from the security center at el-Hamr in the district of Timimoun, and another 7 detainees from the (?Sebit) center. This brings the total number of released detainees so far from the three aforementioned centers to 900.

Egypt

Developments, Reaction Follow Writer's Murder

Plan To 'Liquidate' Opponents Revealed

NC0906123492 Paris AFP in English 1130 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, June 9 (AFP)—The alleged killer of a reputed Egyptian author said Faraj Fudah was the first of many opponents of Islamic fundamentalism he planned to "liquidate," the pro-government AL-AHRAM daily reported Tuesday.

Faraj Fudah was shot dead as he left his office in the Madinat Nasr suburb of Cairo. His 15-year-old son and a friend were also hurt in the attack.

Ramadan, according to the newspaper, admitted that he shot Fudah and said he was a member of the outlawed Al-Jihad extremist group—responsible for the 1981 assassination of former president Anwar al-Sadat.

A fishmonger by trade, Ramadan described himself as the "emir of jihad" (prince of the holy war) of the Al-Zawiyah Al-Hamra, a poor Cairo neighbourhood where bloody clashes took place in 1981 between Muslims and Christians.

He said he and accomplice Ashraf Ibrahim, who escaped after the shooting, planned on "eliminating secular figures" such as Fudah.

Fudah was hospitalised suffering from seven bullet wounds but died hours later as surgeons struggled in vain to save him.

The 47-year-old author was well-known in Egypt for his pro- secular and anti-fundamentalist views and was said to have received several death threats from Islamic extremists.

Born to a well-to-do Muslim family, he also worked for the pro- government magazine OCTOBER [UKTUBAR] and last week published a strong attack on fundamentalists, accusing them of hypocrisy.

Last week Fudah urged President Husni Mubarak to submit parliament an anti-terrorist law in a bid to clamp down on fundamentalist militants.

Security for Public Figures Tightened

NC0906132292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA)—The Interior Ministry's internal security department reinstated personal bodyguards for a number of public figures, journalists, and intellectuals who recently asked that this protection be canceled. This has taken place in view of the assassination of Dr. Faraj Fudah.

MENA has learned that Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa issued instructions immediately following the regrettable incident yesterday to reinstate personal protection for some figures who had asked that this protection be removed, especially after the first suspect in the assassination admitted that the extremist groups were planning to assassinate certain figures who criticize their ideas.

The interior minister also issued instructions to increase security patrols around certain embassies and important

installations to protect them, within the framework of a comprehensive plan to protect and safeguard these installations against any attempts by extremist elements to violate security.

NC0906203192 Paris AFP in English 2011 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, June 9 (AFP) - Writers and human rights activists voiced alarm Tuesday over the future of civil liberties and free speech in Egypt after the killing of author Faraj Fudah, reportedly by Islamic fundamentalists. While Muslim groups accused the government of allowing attacks on Islam, intellectuals charged that it was not doing enough to counter the threat posed by fundamentalist extremists.

The spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood, Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, told AFP the group "condemns political assassinations" but that the government and official media were also responsible for granting writers too much license.

The alleged killer of the reputed author, quoted by AL-AHRAM newspaper, confessed meanwhile that Fudah was only the first of many opponents of fundamentalism that he planned to "liquidate." 'Abd- al-Shafi Ahmad Ramadan was arrested immediately after Fudah was shot and fatally wounded late Monday as he left his office in the Madinat Nasr suburb of Cairo. His 15-year-old son and a friend were also hurt in the attack. Ramadan, according to the newspaper, admitted that he shot Fudah and said he was a member of the outlawed al-Jihad extremist group —responsible for the 1981 assassination of president Anwar al-Sadat.

The 47-year-old author was well-known in Egypt for his pro- secular and anti-fundamentalist views and was said to have received several death threats from Islamic extremists.

Condemning the murder, the Egyptian Human Rights Organisation said it was "a warning to all supporters of human rights and freedom of thought." Cinema script-writer Wahid Hamid warned the killing would have "a negative impact on cultural and artistic activity" and was aimed at intimidating Egyptian intellectuals. "The assassination of Faraj Fudah is worrying because it shows that the Muslim extremists now plan to liquidate personalities after having targeted government officials and the (Christian) Copts," said writer Salah 'Isa.

Al-Qadhdhafi Said To Hand Over Suspects

AU0906195892 Paris AFP in English 1839 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Paris, June 9 (AFP)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi has decided to hand over to authorities in Scotland two Libyans accused of blowing up a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, a French weekly reported. In its issue to go on sale Wednesday [10 June], the satirical CANARD ENCHAINE, which has good contacts in French intelligence circles, said Al-Qadhdhafi's decision to hand over the Lockerbie suspects would be "approved" Saturday by a meeting of the Libyan People's General Congress, or parliament.

Libya has been the target of UN sanctions because of its refusal to turn over the two men accused by the United States and Britain of blowing up a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie in December 1988, killing 270 people.

Quoting French intelligence sources, the weekly said Al-Qadhdhafi hoped to save face with the surrender by saying he was turning the two men over to a "sovereign state" independent of Washington and London.

Al-Qadhdhafi offered on several occasions to turn the men over to neutral authorities, but he has refused to extradite them for judgement in the United States or Britain, saying this would contravene Libyan laws against the extradition of Libyan citizens.

The CANARD ENCHAINE report came as unidentified "revolutionary forces" in Tripoli took over the Libyan official news agency JANA and the government daily AL-FAJR AL-JADID, according to a JANA statement. The statement said the "forces" had dismissed JANA's director and taken control of AL-FAJR AL-JADID "on the orders of the Popular General Committee (ministry) of Information."

The ousted management, headed by Mohammed Al-Amari Al-Mouin [name as received], had purveyed "disinformation and attempts to ridicule the people in the guise of slogans on Arabism and Islam," the statement said. "Henceforth JANA will be managed by conscious revolutionary forces which know their interests and those of the Libyans", it said.

Libyan sources in Paris said the seizure of the official Libyan press represented a move by Libyan hardliners to block Al- Qadhdhafi's move to turn the Lockerbie suspects over to British authorities in Scotland.

The French foreign ministry refused to comment on the CANARD ENCHAINE report.

But the newspaper reported that French authorities had already moved to take advantage of the expected resolution of the Lockerbie crisis by authorizing the state-controlled oil firm Total to sign a contract with Libya for the purchase of natural gas. Total officials confirmed that they recently signed a deal for the purchase of 300,000 tonnes of Libyan propane gas. But they declined to comment on other aspects of the CANARD ENCHAINE report.

In another development Tuesday seen as an effort by Libya to defuse international pressure over the Lockerbie affair, a Libyan envoy handed a British diplomat in Geneva information on Libya's past assistance to the Irish Republican Army. Former Libyan foreign minister Abdul Ati al-Obeidi [name as received] said he had provided "verbal documents" to Edward Chaplin of the

British mission at the United Nations in Geneva. "We talked about our relations and about Security Council resolution 731," he said following the UN- sponsored meeting. The resolution demanded that Libya renounce terrorism and hand over the [illegible]. The [illegible] information was unclear in connection with the resolution, Obeidi added.

Chaplin confirmed the information concerned the IRA. "I received some information," he said. "I'm transmitting it to London. We shall study this."

Daily Urges U.S. 'Decisive' Position on Lebanon

NC1006075392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jun (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM calls on the United States to release a decisive statement supporting Lebanese rights and demanding that Israel withdraw quickly from southern Lebanon, or, at least, make Israel pledge to withdraw from southern Lebanon in the peace talks.

In an editorial today, AL-AHRAM states that the crisis between Israel and Lebanon has entered a new phase threatening an eruption of acts of violence and the possibility of a war involving Syria. The United States is doing nothing but appeal to all parties to exercise self-restraint.

AL-AHRAM says that the current problem does not require much thinking to determine who is right and who is wrong: Israel occupies a strip of land in southern Lebanon where an agent army is deployed. Israel protects this army and provides it with arms. UN and Security Council resolutions affirm the occupation and call for an end to it. The United Nations is a witness that this strip of land is Lebanese and must be returned. Lebanon establishes its right to recover its land and to fight the agent army occupying it, which is the central government's authority.

AL-AHRAM says that Israel is establishing fresh rights on its usurpation, such as defending what it calls the security strip against what it calls aggressors. Moreover, Israel is trying to provoke Syria and accuses it of inciting Lebanon against it. Israel is trying to deflect attention from its actual occupation of Lebanese territory and to initiate skirmishes and perhaps another war to emphasize the idea of its threatened security and thus its right to annex more territory.

AL-AHRAM asserts that right and wrong are as clear as black and white on this issue. There is no room for anyone to think long or try to find facts on the pretext of taking a sound position. The paper states that laxity and inaction in siding with right is tantamount to clear appeasement of aggression, particularly if it is true that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asked Washington for a green light to solve the unsettled situation in southern Lebanon and restore stability in his own way and that Washington has not yet responded. The paper points out that this position convicts America twice: Once for merely accepting such a disgraceful request and again for asking for time to respond. We completely rule this out, however, because it is inconsistent with the [illegible] and Security Council resolutions. We call for a quick and crucial U.S. statement supporting Lebanese rights and demanding that Israel quickly withdraw from southern Lebanon.

Libya

'Revolutionary Forces' Take Over JANA

LD0906183692 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1805 GMT 9 Jun 92

["The Revolutionary Forces Take Over JANA"—JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Jun (JANA)—Revolutionary forces at the revolutionary newspapers have taken over JANA and assumed control of that information facility and of the AL-FAJR AL-JADID newspaper, which is published by that facility.

Here is the text of the revolutionary forces' statement on that issue:

Citizens, Libyan men and women: Starting from the belief that ignorance will end when everything is presented in its true form and from the belief in the right of the Jamahiri masses of toilers and simple people to know the truth, the whole truth, without any falsification, any politicization, any ambiguity, or any [words indistinct], the revolutionary forces at the revolutionary newspapers have taken over JANA and expelled Muhammad al-'Imary, its previous director, who was appointed by a decree by the General People's Committee for Information and Culture and assumed control of that information facility, and have assumed control of AL-FAJR AL-JADID newspaper.

These actions were instigated by a real anger caused by the falsification and deceit which were aimed at deceiving the citizen and making him ignorant and laughing at him using the umbrella and slogans of pan-Arabism and Islam, while the enemies of pan-Arabism and Islam were besieging the Libyan men and women and preventing them from performing the religious duty of pilgrimage. The Libyans did not find any of these slogans of pan-Arabism or Islam standing by them.

Let the ignorance and stultification end.

Let falseness and falsification end.

The whole truth is for these Jamahiri masses who volunteered and sacrificed everything they had for pan-Arabism and Islam then they found themselves alone, facing the enemies, the enemies of Pan- Arabism and Islam.

Therefore, JANA and AL-FAJR AL-JADID newspaper will now be managed by the perceptive revolutionary forces who understand their own interests and the interests of all Libyans, the sons of this dear, beloved homeland.

Down with falseness, deceit, and laughing at the masses. Only the truth is the master of the situation.

Prejudice, all the revolutionary prejudice toward the masses of our people. [sentence as received]

This is what the revolution has taught us.

March forward.

Al-Qadhdhafi Policy on Arab Ties Ridiculed

LD0906213392 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1822 GMT 9 Jun 92

["Arab Maghreb Union pool" item; "AL-JAMAHIRIYAH Newspaper: Allowing the Forbidden"—JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Jun (JANA)—AL-JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper, published by the Revolutionary Committee Movement, explains in an editorial published today and entitled "Allowing the Forbidden," the reality of Arab solidarity with the great Jamahiriyah. It says:

You came once, at dawn, stressing that our interest lies in our pan-Arabism. You attracted our minds two weeks later by saying: "The Arab nation trembles when any part of it is exposed to a disaster or an accident."

Have your Arabs actually moved since 1969? In that year, you told us of the Arab nation's intrinsic power. You told us and them about the imminent danger. You told us and them of the coming train [reference to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's suggestion that a train of death is attacking the Arab nation]. We believed you. Did your Arabs believe you?

No.

You have presented the liberation of Palestine as a pan-Arab issue for the first time. We presented the jewellery of our wives and the blood of our sons to be shed there, and your Arabs signed treaties. You then called on us to be patient.

You were fascinated by their deception when they applauded you. They applauded you very much because of your unifying statements here and there, but they turned their backs on you when the others tore your signature and their signatures.

They even denied our actual contributions to their battles for show. Therefore, we reined in our mouths for the nation's sake. Where is your nation today?

For that nation, you have returned again and again to the words of your old book so that we, under your instigation and sometimes even your threats, presented everything we had. In the end, we have put them before our sons in everything.

...They turned their backs on us, they surrendered and accepted the enemies' banners. They have even accepted their shoes. You told us that the pot will boil over and that the flood is coming. We were attracted by the image, but this did not go beyond imagination. You asked us to accept this, and we have accepted the siege for their own sake. We have no problem with the West, the friend of your Arabs. It was for the sake of your Arabs themselves.

You invented problems with the West for the sake of your Arabs. You called for unity, you called for liberation, you called for crossing the red lines. However, your Arabs have showed us the prominent reliefs on the road to setting up [word indistinct] relations with the West.

You have wronged us a great deal. We believed you every time. Until today, you have not let us understand our interest and others understand their interests and work for the latter. The West came to you, came to us, with their bombs and aircraft. We spoke to those far away and those nearby. We shouted until we lost our voices about the pan-Arab character of the [word indistinct] battle and that we were a target because of the nation. Did your Arab demon take off, the one you indeed told us a great deal about? Did your arena erupt in anger?

Do not tell us of hoarse shouts that stopped when the first nightstick appeared in one street or another. The local media blew them out of proportion at your instigation in your quest to create for your Arabs what they do not have or to cover up for them by seeking excuses for them. Reality was drawing us toward truth, but you were reining us, saying that good, all good, is in your Arabs.

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH says in its article: "Today, we ask: Where are your Arabs? Where is the good coming from them?" Were we not being deceived as we watched leaning timber planks making no move for the sake of Libyan Arabs or Lebanese Arabs? The Palestinian Arabs

are either merchants or oppressed. They all have reneged their faith in the Arabs in whom you still believe!

Today, we do not care whether you accept or not, whether you abandoned the lesson or not, whether you returned to your old notebooks or tried to renew them. We will not believe a word of what you call the Arab fate, Arab blood, and Arab feeling. Those are things we have gone beyond. As we have always been with you and have believed you time after time, you should be with us and believe us this time. We have tried your diligent interpretations. We know today that your vision of their results was myopic; otherwise you would have known that the army would not move for the sake of an airspace restriction or a siege but would stand idle while an honor is being violated and its sons are being slaughtered like sheep. It was enticed by a morsel mixed with ignominy. You have been slow in realizing our understanding and awareness of your sacrosancts, which you call constants. Why do you forbid us what others have permitted? Your constants are variables to them, and reality shocks you with its witnesses.

The newspaper made clear: The West has asked us to absolve ourselves of all that you have [words indistinct] marginal goods, and you presented us with pretexts that those sacrifices were inevitable. Thus, you have exhausted our economy for their sake, and we have accepted the results.

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH said in its article: There were the blockades, restrictions, and (?the resolutions). Your Arabs blackmailed us. Together with those who blockade us and restrict us, they helped murder us gradually. Do you understand? You were not aware of this; otherwise you would have restored the gates and built a wall around them like the Great Wall of China. However, you did not do that because you are chasing a mirage; we are not running after this mirage with you this time. This is your Arabism; go to it alone. Go wherever you like, but we will not follow you. We know our interest; we know it well today. Most certainly these interests do not lie with your Arabs, who have left us to the air restriction. They have left us to seek crusading permission even when we want to perform our pilgrimage. Go to your Arabs, who were fascinated by the air restriction game. They considered the regional economic ramifications, and, consequently, the benefit was to the maximum. Are your Arabs actually for lifting the air restriction, for example? Your Arabs—small and big—were fascinated by the game. And you still tell us of Arabism! The paper reaffirmed that the real revolution is the one which we declare and which presents the reality as it is without media cosmetics. This revolution should be launched so that it can sweep away all that previous charlatanism. If you have truly understood as we understand, then you should read the reality well and believe that there are no Arabs and that our interest—even if it lies with the Jews themselves—is paramount. AL-JAMAHIRIYAH concluded: However, if you imagine that there is good in your Arabs, then this is entirely your opinion. Go to them alone; beg them alone. As for us, we can no longer tolerate their ridiculing us because of you. We can no longer lose our dignity while they laugh at us, despite the fact that they have lost their dignity and are standing humiliated before our enemies. As far as we are concerned, what you call forbidden today is similar to that which is permissible as far as your Arabs are concerned because we have become well aware of the truth which indicates the incapability of your Arabs and their marginalism. We declare strongly and boldly that we are with those who are worthy of life, with those working for it, despite your Arabs!

Article Denounces Pan-Arabism

LD1006125192 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Jun (JANA)—The daily 'AL-JAMAHIRIYAH', issued by the Revolutionary Committee Movement, published today an article, in a series of articles, exposing Arab reality under the title 'Forgive us, al-Qadhdhafi.'

It said: "First of all, forgive us, O leader [words indistinct] and to reject certain convictions in Arabism and Islam [words indistinct] attached to your Arabism and Islam. As to us, we are not prepared to mislead or help mislead the masses using the ties and relations of Arabism and Islam when such relations have been given the lie and such ties been proven false. Why [words indistinct], O brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and insist that we sacrifice our interests for the sake of other people and countries which reiterate through their pilgrim delegations, media and religious institutions "God we obey" without having any feeling of solidarity with us, the Arab Muslim Libyans who have been prevented from going to Mecca."

The article added: "Those people did not even bother to express their discontent that a whole people has been prevented from performing the hajj rituals. They preferred their relations [words indistinct] to Arabism and Islam which have made us sacrifice all that we possess for the sake of boosting, strengthening, and translating them into practice and to which we had devoted, just as you told us to, all our time, effort and sweat."

In its article 'AL-JAMAHIRIYAH' made it clear saying "You have a right, O leader, to be angry at us, you even have a right to punish us .. because you yourself have tought us that Arabism is a fate and a destiny, and that the Islamic League is a guarantor for realizing the values and the principles and even the transformation of the dreams into reality. It was you who planted all of these values in ourselves.

However, we know, O leader, that you, with your big heart, will find the excuse for our bitterness.. and for the sense of depression we have reached as we have been let down and stabbed from behind in the back by those whom we believed were a prop to us and a support in need.

You have told us and taught us that we are free and can do what we want and say what we want. Therefore, O leader, we want to turn our attention toward our interests and to deal with whoever realizes our interests. Whoever realizes our interests to us is not a foreigner but is our brother even if he is Chinese, Indian, or even American.

We will not dissuade you from your convictions. If you wanted Egypt and wanted Algeria and were still staking your bet on Arabism and on the Islamic League, we would only say that you are free and go alone to your Arabism and your Islamic League. For us, we have America to cooperate with better than all of the Arabs because we are convinced that our interests are above every consideration for we gained nothing from Arabism and from the Islamic League.

The paper stressed [words indistinct]: "We tell you in all frankness that we do not want any stale trade in the name of Arabism and Islam. We want a true [words indistinct] nonsense which has nested in our souls and to which we have been used for many years in the name of Arabism and Islam. We no longer want Arab nationalism and the Islamic League. Even in your Green Book, you do not speak of them; you speak of nations. That is what your book says.

We ask you what good are Arabism and the Islamic bond to us when the Arabs are asking you and us to surrender our sons to the enemy and to submit to western demands?

We ask you: Why do Arab workers benefit from Libyan oil. Libyan oil should go to American workers if they are of any use to us or if they serve any of our interests. That would be more worth our while than Arabism and Islam.

The paper concluded by saying: "Forgive us, our leader, if we tell you that we have to have links with one of the countries that are trying to change the world and to build a new world order. That would better for us, for we have taken it upon ourselves to make our relations with other countries governed by the criterion [words indistinct].

The paper concluded by saying: "Forgive us, Mu'ammar, if we announce that our friends are the Chinese and the Indians not the Arabs."

Fahd Responsible For 'Preventing' Libyan's Hajj

LD0906132992 Tripoli Great Jamahirivah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Jun 92

["Text" of communique issued by the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation in Tripoli on 9 June]

[Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia affirmed in a communique issued last night that it asked New York and Hungary for airplanes to transport the Libyan pilgrims. New York asked for lists of the pilgrims and the number of flights for which permission was sought so that the decision to permit the travelling of the pilgrims to Mecca thereafter could be made.

When the Saudi authorities informed us about this, our reply was that permission could not possibly be asked for or obtained from a committee headed by a Hungarian in New York, and Mecca must be removed from political maneuvers and changes, and outside the control of any political quarter. Therefore, King Fahd, king of Saudi Arabia, is the one who prevented thousands of Libyans from performing the rites of pilgrimage when he pledged to implement Resolution 748. He should not have committed himself, knowing as he did, that the Libyans cannot and should not obtain permission to perform the sacred rite from the committee in question.

Al-Qadhdhafi Urges Fahd To Cede Custodianship

LD0906173192 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1635 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Jun (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has sent a message to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, the text of which follows:

Dear brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-Al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques:

In your capacity as custodian of the two holy mosques, you announced that you had assumed the religious responsibility, before all Muslims, for preventing the arrival of thousands upon thousands of Libyan Muslims [words indistinct] this year and for the exclusion of a Muslim state from performing the hajj rituals, all because of your state's compliance with the Christian community's Resolution 747.

Your country should not concern itself with the various international political problems that constantly interact. Your country should remain a religious state the message of which is solely to serve the House of God and to facilitate performance of that ritual to God in its purity.

If you are a political state that is forced to deal with temporal [word indistinct] politics, however, there is absolutely no other way but to cede sovereignty over God's Holy House and to leave it for God alone, as the responsibility of all Muslims. The choice is yours.

The Islamic world bears witness that Libya should not have to ask permission from New York to perform the hajj in Mecca. Nor should Riyadh ask permission from Hungary to allow Muslims to perform the hajj.

[Signed] Your brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Al-Qadhdhafi Phones Maghreb Leaders on Sanctions

LD0906192692 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution, has telephoned President Maaouiya Ould Sidi Ahmed Taya, president of Mauritania; Chairman

Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Algerian Higher State Council; King Hassan II, King of Morocco; and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of Tunisia.

The telephone contacts between Colonel al-Qadhafi and the heads of the Arab Mahgreb Union [AMU] states concentrated on consultations about the fate of the AMU and about the illegality of the air sanctions imposed on Libya after it accepted UN Security Council resolution 731.

The contacts also concentrated on the inability of the Libyan pilgrims to go to the Holy House of God to perform the pilgrimage religious duty for this year. This is the first time such a thing has happened in the history of the Islamic world, and is the result of Saudi adherence to the Christian group's resolution 748. Saudi Arabia should have been free from that adherence, at least as far as the religious side is concerned, in order to allow the Libyan pilgrims to perform this religious duty.

Sit-In at Saudi Embassy Decries 'Crusader' Policy

LD1006095592 Tripoli JANA in English 0817 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf [Jun] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—For the second day running the sit-ins conducted by Libyan pilgrims in front of the Saudi Embassy in Tripoli continued yesterday.

The pilgrims were protesting at the crusader resolution which is preventing them and Muslims living in Libya to conduct the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

The pilgrims chanted slogans which they repeated in front of the embassy and called for the need for the holy places to be under the protection of a religious administration which are not linked in any way to governments, politics and non spiritual changes.

They also called for the removal of all obstacles placed in the way of Muslims wishing to fulfill the religious duties. The pilgrims conducting a sit-in in front of the Saudi Embassy in Tripoli directed an appeal to their brothers and sisters in the holy lands to publicly express their opposition to the administering of these lands under the aegis of a political authority.

[Tripoli JANA English at 0829 GMT 10 Jun also adds—"Thousands of Libyans from throughout the Great Jamahariyah have joined the prospective pilgrims who are conducting a sit-in in front of the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Tripoli in protest at the baseless crusader resolution 748 which forbids them from going on the annual pilgrimage to Mecca (Haj).

Thus, yesterday morning, the masses from the municipal sector of Zleytan and the municipal sector of al Jafra surged onto the streets in protest demonstrations to denounce the Christian forces' resolution in the Security Council, Resolution 748 and the tyrannical measures which forbid the Libyan Muslims from going on the Haj as a result of this malevolent resolution.

These masses raised banners and placards which expressed their opposition to all the obstacles and measures are preventing them from going on the Haj.

These masses confirmed that these measures have insulted Muslims throughout the world and that by abiding by orders other than god's is both a sacrilege [word indistinct] idolatry.

The protesting masses called on all Muslims for the need to act immediately in order that the Haj (pilgrimage to Mecca) and the 'Umra (lesser Haj) remain pure in the eyes of god, without obtaining permission from any crusader"].

Barring Hajj Pilgrims 'Human Rights' Violation

LD1006100392 Tripoli JANA in English 0825 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf [Jun] 10—JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Libyan Arab Committee for Human Rights in the era of the masses have affirmed that preventing Libyans from conducting the pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj), as a result of a malevolent crusader resolution is a violation of the United Nations Charter and the universal declaration on human rights. The committee also said that it is in complete contradiction to all religious values which should allow all those wishing to abide by these values, to do so, without obstruction.

In a statement it issued, the committee called on all federations, societies and organisations which are struggling to defend human rights to adopt a firm stance vis a vis this malicious crusader resolution. The statement said that this resolution has no regard for religion, nor precepts nor law.

Opposition Front Condemns Libyan-UK Meeting

PM0906150592 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Jun 92 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Opposition Criticizes Geneva Meeting"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The Libyan National Salvation Front [LNSF] (the Libyan opposition's main faction) has regarded tomorrow's meeting in Geneva between British and Libyan officials "as a serious turning point in the course of dealing with the issue of condemning (Libyan leader Colonel) Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's regime (...). And it will open other side doors that will lead to dividing the principal issue into small marginal demands for each state individually (...) so that each state will settle its matters and protect its interests with al-Qadhdhafi individually."

It said in a statement it issued yesterday that Britain opposed France when the latter secured a separate solution concerning the release of its hostages in Lebanon, regarding the hostage issue as "a whole for which no separate solution should be sought."

The statement urged "the governments concerned" conform with UN resolutions "wholly, and not in par to the form of side dialogues and meetings, in order to t in the crisis legally in accordance with the resolutions nd UN resolutions, and so that separate solutions will n of a historical precedent that will fragment the unity be international resolutions." of

The statement pointed out that "the head of seditio Libya is al-Qadhdhafi and those who carry out his orn in within the regime, and that al-Qadhdhafi's handing ders of terrorism files to Britain means his clear admisover that he actually committed these crimes (....). This is sion the affirmation that the Libyan people cannot bearwith consequences of these confessions, and we conde the beforehand any aggressive intentions that might hemn the Libyan people's interests and wealth." arm

At the same level, the Libyan National Salvation Fro organizing a protest demonstration at noon tomornt is Tuesday, in front of the British cabinet's headquarterow, London. The Front's statement pointed out that rs in Libyan opposition's forces on the British scene "the participate in the demonstration in protest at the hol will of the Geneva meeting between representatives olding British Government and the al-Qadhdhafi regime of the could lead to splitting the UN resolutions." which

The statement indicated that the demonstrators wil the British Government "to open the file d urge Qadhdhafi's terrorist practices on British terrf al- including the firing at Libyan demonstrators in fritory, the Libyan Embassy in London, wounding some ofnt of and killing British policewoman Yvonne Fletcf them 1984." ner in

Intelligence Chief To Visit Geneva on Locker bie

PM0906133192 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 7 Jun 92 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Oil Minister in ington; Intelligence Chief Heads for Geneva"] Wash-

[Text] Washington, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Lib raised the level of its contacts with the West, espya has the United States and Britain. Informed circles yesecially confirmed that a senior Libyan official arrived insterday ington and that a prominent Libyan security off Washexpected to arrive in Geneva to meet with ficial is officials. These contacts are being conducted by British within the framework of its attempts to resolve th Libya with both Washington and London as a resulte crisis accusations that Libya was behind the blowing u of the U.S. plane over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. p of the

Informed circles yesterday revealed to SAW KUWAYT that Libyan Industry Minister 'U/T AL- Muntasir has arrived in the U.S. capital on a mar al- visit. The circles—U.S. oil company circles— private the utmost interest to the visit, especially as devoted al-Muntasir used to hold the post of prime minisMinister is, secretary of the General People's Commter (that ittee in Libyan political terminology) as well as being a prominent Libyan leader entrusted with the oil portfolio.

The circles said that al-Muntasir will have political contacts with the U.S. Administration as oil mediators.

The circles say that al-Muntasir actually arrived in Washington by prior agreement with the U.S. Administration. But SAWT AL-KUWAYT sources can confirm that no such agreement exists, that Minister al-Muntasir submitted his application for an entry visa to the United States three months ago, and that he wants to open a direct channel of contact with the administration.

Meanwhile, sources close to the Libyan opposition have said that Colonel Yusuf al-Dibri, chief of Libyan intelligence, might arrive in Geneva at any moment to hold talks with Western officials, bringing such information as Libya possesses about groups described as terrorist.

The sources said that Col. al-Dibri's visit to Geneva will take place the day after tomorrow, Tuesday, within the framework of what was announced about a scheduled meeting with British officials concerning the Lockerbie crisis.

Previously there were reports about a possible meeting between Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Bishari and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. And over two weeks ago SAWT AL-KUWAYT cited those Libyan-British contacts within the framework of the endeavors made by Egypt to settle the Lockerbie crisis peacefully.

According to the sources which spoke to SAWT AL-KUWAYT, the success of the contacts with both Washington and London will depend on the demands to be raised during the talks, especially Libya's adherence to international resolution No 731, which stipulates the handover of suspects in the Lockerbie operation. This is in addition to what the sources said about a British request that Britain be provided with sufficient information about the IRA, especially as Libya supported it in the past.

French Paper—Libya To Yield Pan Am Suspects

NC0906193792 Paris AFP in English 1843 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Paris, June 9 (AFP) - Libyan leader Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi has decided to hand over to authorities in Scotland two Libyans accused of blowing up a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, a French weekly reported.

In its issue to go on sale Wednesday, the satirical CANARD ENCHAINE, which has good contacts in French intelligence circles, said al-Qadhdhafi's decision to hand over the Lockerbie suspects would be "approved" Saturday by a meeting of the Libyan People's General Congress, or parliament.

Libya has been the target of U.N. sanctions because of its refusal to turn over the two men accused by the United

States and Britain of blowing up a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie in December 1988, killing 270 people.

Quoting French intelligence sources, the weekly said al-Qadhdhafi hoped to save face with the surrender by saying he was turning the two men over to a "sovereign state" independent of Washington and London. Al-Qadhdhafi offered on several occasions to turn the men over to neutral authorities, but he has refused to extradite them for judgement in the United States or Britain, saying this would contravene Libyan laws against the extradition of Libyan citizens. [passage omitted covered in first referent item]

The French Foreign Ministry refused to comment on the CANARD ENCHAINE report. But the newspaper reported that French authorities had already moved to take advantage of the expected resolution of the Lockerbie crisis by authorizing the state-controlled oil firm Total to sign a contract with Libya for the purchase of natural gas. Total officials confirmed that they recently signed a deal for the purchase of 300,000 tonnes of Libyan propane gas. But they declined to comment on other aspects of the CANARD ENCHAINE report.

In another development Tuesday seen as an effort by Libya to defuse international pressure over the Lockerbie affair, a Libyan envoy handed a British diplomat in Geneva information on Libya's past assistance to the Irish Republican Army.

Former Libyan Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi said he had provided "verbal documents" to Edward Chaplin of the British mission at the United Nations in Geneva. "We talked about our relations and about Security Council Resolution 731," he said following the U.N.-sponsored meeting. The resolution demanded that Libya renounce terrorism and hand over the Lockerbie suspects. The exchange of information was useful in connection with the resolution, al-'Ubaydi added. Chaplin confirmed the information concerned the IRA. "I received some information," he said. "I'm transmitting it to London. We shall study this."

Morocco

King Issues Message to Nation on Elections

LD0906192392 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Message to the nation by King Hassan II read by Ahmed Ben Souda, adviser to the king, at a meeting of provincial governors and the judiciary in Rabat on 9 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] His Majesty the king of Morocco. Praise be to God alone, and prayers and peace be upon our Lord the messenger of God, his family, and his companions. [passage omitted]

We have already and more than once announced our sincere determination that the coming elections will be free and fair elections characterized by openness, the credibility of which will be accepted by all. In this kingdom the law contains sufficient guarantees in order to realize the objectives we are seeking. But for more caution and for the record in these important matters, we have decided to set up a central committee and provincial committees to insure the safety of the elections at all their stages, from registration in the electoral lists to the declaration of the results of the vote.

The central committee will consist of a judge as chairman, a representative of the Interior Ministry, and a member selected by every party represented in the House of Representatives. As for the provincial committees, they will be chaired by a judge too, and in addition to him, it will have other members: the governor of the province or his deputy, as well as a representative of every party.

These committee will not interfere in the prerogatives conferred by the law on the public authorities or the electorate, in the polling process. But they will insure the safety of these elections, and will be keen to see them take place in accordance with the text of the laws governing them. Anyone noticing a mistake in the interpretation of these texts, or an abuse of their provisions by those tasked by the law to implement them, will be able to submit this to the chairman of the concerned local provincial committee so that the latter may seek to rectify the mistake and take things back to normal. And, if he is not content with the measure taken at provincial level, he will be able to take matters up with the chairman of the central committee so that adequate measures may be taken at the highest level. This will be without encroaching on the right of all concerned to resort to the methods of judicial appeal guaranteed by the law in general.

May God guide us toward what is good and toward the most correct path. Almighty God hears and responds. Peace be upon you.

Written in the royal palace in Rabat on Tuesday 7 Dhi al-Hijjah 1412 AH, corresponding to 9 June 1992.

King on National Election Committee

LD0906194192 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1325 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Speech by King Hassan II at meeting of provincial governors and the judiciary in Rabat on 9 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] Thanks be to God, and prayers and peace be upon his messenger, his family and companions. Gentlemen, the text of the message which has just been read before you is clear and does not need any further explanation. However, I would like to add some comments. First, when we started thinking about this committee, we found ourselves facing two kinds of authorities: a pure administrative authority allowed by law and by the royal decree to the nation, and another authority

which is also an administrative authority but which emanates from elections and which consists of the heads of municipal and rural councils. These have become authorities because the law and the constitution give them a big share of responsibility. Therefore, we found ourselves before two authorities: a pure administrative authority, and an elected administrative authority.

We feared that the prestige of the administrative authority might prevail at times over the elected authority, or that the elected authority might at times rebel against the appointed authority, and that all this would be followed by anarchy, [word indistinct] anarchy, procrastination in administrative measures, and the postponement of the process which must start as soon as possible, if we truly want to have a [new] parliament before the end of the year, God willing.

In view of the existence of these two authorities, we had the idea of appointing a judge to be in charge of setting the views right, and making decisions with the legal knowledge with which God has endowed him. If things become unclear to him, he can then raise the issue to the national higher committee, which will be working on our side.

To head the committee we have appointed the well-known judge, Mr. (Mikou), and we have appointed Mr. (Cheddadi) (Phon) as his deputy. [passage omitted]

As for the National Committee it will, broadly speaking, have tasks other than to consider complaints. For example, for the sake of wisdom and in pursuit of perfection, the National Committee is invited to join the royal cabinet in order to look at the new arrangement and to give us its view on the subject. We shall also meet with it personally so that it can give us its view concerning the shares each individual party will be allocated in the media.

Also, in accordance with the stipulations of the law, the National Committee is to give us its view on the means and the size of legal aid allocated by the law to political parties in order to finance the elections.

As I said, such points are mentioned in a general context. There are other points on which I shall need the opinion of this committee. I am satisfied with its views, just as I am satisfied with the results of the meetings of our governors, judges, and deputies. [passage omitted]

Parliament Adopts 2 Draft Bills on Elections

LD0506141592 Rabat MAP in English 1221 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Rabat, June 5 (MAP)—The Moroccan Parliament Thursday adopted two draft bills, one lowering the civilian and electoral age from 21 to 20 and the other relating to the revision of voting rolls and organization of elections.

The bills were adopted by 162 votes, and two abstentions. The opposition parties forming the democratic block (Istiqlal Party, Socialist Union of Popular Forces [USFP], Party for Progress and Socialism and Organization for a Democratic and Popular Action) declined to participate in the vote arguing the bills have not gained "the necessary national consensus". The opposition parties also claim the setting up of "an independent" electoral commission to supervise all the electoral process from registration on voting rolls till proclamation of results.

Prior to their submission to the parliament, the two bills were referred to royal arbitration as requested by the opposition and examined by a commission set up by the sovereign. The commission, formed by all political parties represented in the government and some cabinet members, agreed on 18 proposals but failed to reach agreement on 5 (voting and eligibility age, ballot mode, making of administrative committees and chairmanship of voting centers).

During the parliamentary debates, several MPs [members of parliament] took the floor to explain their party's viewpoint on the bills. USFP first secretary pointed out that the democratic block declined to participate in the discussion and vote of the bills. They will vote neither for nor against the bill, nor will they abstain. They refuse to participate in the vote for the procedure and stages drawn by King Hassan II for the elaboration of the project have not been respected, the USFP leader explained.

At the beginning of the Thursday session, Secretary General of the Government Abbas el-Kaissi made a summary presentation on the works of the commission set up by King Hassan II and pointed out that the commission renewed that the right to resort to court in case of fraud or any dispute is guaranteed, that the colors assigned to parties during previous elections will be maintained, that the electoral campaigns will be financed by the state and that all parties will have access to the state-owned radio, TV and media.

Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri renewed while presenting the two texts to the parliament "the government's earnest will to make of the coming elections free and honest ones, from registration on voting lists till proclamation of results" and pointed out that the goal is to reach a legislation securing the guarantees needed to have coming elections take place in a climate of freedom, transparency and honesty enabling all layers of the Moroccan people to chose their representatives at the local, provincial and national levels.

Basri asserted that a commission entrusted with supervising the elections will be set up soon by King Hassan II.

Council Studies Electoral Amendments

LD0906175592 Rabat MAP in English 1215 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Rabat, Jun 9 (MAP)—A government council convened here Monday for scrutiny in a series of draft

bills meant to amend electoral bills in force in the wake of adoption by the House of Representatives of the 12.92 bill.

The bill recently adopted by the parliament provides for drawing up and revision of voting lists and elections of councils of rural and city communities.

Debates covered provisions related to the election and making of the house, organization of referenda and prefectships, provinces and their assemblies, and the statutes of the agriculture, trade and industry and handicraft chambers. Amendments bringing down the voting age to 20 and eligibility age to 23 were also examined by the council.

Daily AL-'ALAM on Election Age Law

LD0506143692 Rabat MAP in English 1234 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Rabat, Jun 5 (MAP)—The daily "AL-'ALAM" said Thursday two million young people will be denied the right to exercise their political rights if the government electoral bill limiting the voting age to 20 is approved by the parliament.

The daily of the Istiqlal Party (nationalist/opposition) recalls that the 18-21 bracket which accounts for 60 percent of the population could represent almost two million people. The daily wonders why this large part of the Moroccan population should be denied that right when young people their age in the Maghreb and elsewhere are entitled to vote.

"AL-'ALAM" comes with two scenarios to show how unsound is the decision. In one case, Maghreban populations are called to a referendum on one issue or another and two million Moroccan not being able to cast their vote while people their age from the other Maghreb countries would participate. The second scenario deals with a referendum on an issue with European partners. The daily wonders whether the EC would accept to see two million people excluded from the vote.

For "AL-'ALAM", when opposition parties suggested 18 as the voting age they were upholding citizens' rights to exercise their rights not using an electoral subterfuge.

Official Denies Report on Algeria, Sahara

LD0606154692 Rabat MAP in English 1254 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Rabat, Jun 6 (MAP)—An official source here Thursday denied as groundless the news published by Saudi daily "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT" that an ongoing Algerian mediation in the Sahara conflict might end in a solution that will make the referendum useless. A spokesman from the foreign department told MAP news agency the information is not based on any liable grounds. In a story under the title "A Political Solution to the Sahara Without Resort to the Referendum", the London-based daily reported Thursday, quoting "well informed sources in New York" that the Sahara issue is heading towards developments that might make of the organization of a referendum a useless task, through Algerian mediation that might result in an agreement between the two conflicting parties.

Sudan

Armed Forces Says Juba Attack Repulsed

EA0906181092 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 9 Jun 92

["Statement" issued by Armed Forces General Command on rebel attack on Juba; place, date of issue not given—read by announcer]

[Text] I. A desperate gang from the routed outlaw remnants, moving like a dying person, attempted to infiltrate Juba to propagate misinformation to cover up their failures and repeated defeats on all fronts, as well as boosting the morale of their agent and fifth column supporters.

II. Your Armed Forces responded to this desperate and abortive attempt by destroying the infiltrating outlaw force. Those who fled were pursued by your Armed Forces and the area around Juba has been completely mopped up.

III. Your Armed Forces and the People's Defense Forces assure you that they are in full control on all the battlefronts and that the Summer Crossing [sayf al-ubur] operation is proceeding according to plan. Your Armed Forces confirm that life in Juba is normal and that air traffic was not interrupted. Moreover, the Armed Forces turned out in a splendid military parade to celebrate the victory and welcome the barges that are now very close to Juba.

God is great. May God, his messenger, the Muslims, your Armed Forces, and their steadfast internal front be honored. Victory comes from God.

Garang Adviser: 'Real Battle' Not Yet Begun

PM1006084592 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 5 Jun 92 p 5

[Interview with former Foreign Minister Mansur Khalid, now political adviser to the Sudanese People's Liberation Army faction led by John Garang, by Ahmad al-Qurashi in Torit; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Qurashi] Will the present battles settle the situation in the Sudanese Government's favor?

[Khalid] No matter how many victories the military government has achieved in the war, the price paid by the [National Islamic] Front government has been heavy. Thus never before in the southern war's history has such a huge number of innocent people died: Over 3,000 killed or wounded, and we have started to publish

their names. This aspect will provoke reactions within the Army and on the Sudanese scene. The real battle has not yet begun, despite all that has happened and is happening.

[Al-Qurashi] What do you mean by the real battle?

[Khalid] Despite the limited resources, the movement is regarded as successful, and it certainly cannot be ignored. It dealt positively with any setback it experienced.

[Al-Qurashi] Do you mean that the ability to engage in "the real battle" exists and that it is inevitable?

[Khalid] The ability exists, the timing is decided, the place is known, and the battle is coming. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qurashi] Some Western diplomatic circles say that Khartoum's military campaign is designed to push the south toward the separation option.

[Khalid] There is no doubt at all that the ultimate aim—despite all the outward conduct—is to push southerners toward the separation option. This is in order to enable the regime to say "we did not do it." That would give them the opportunity to consolidate their position in the north. Separation would mean the establishment of a provisional state so Khartoum could take a breather. And, as the leader of the Sudanese islamic Front, Hasan al-Turabi, emphasizes, "their mission does not stop at Sudan's borders." This is because the activities they are engaging in are clear in neighboring African states and are characterized by putschism and a spirit of sabotage.

[Al-Qurashi] Is it possible to know the dimensions and aims of these activities?

[Khalid] We can say that the moves by the Turabi front started long ago under the Islamic "relief" slogan. It used all these capabilities to bolster its political entity and create bases for itself in some African states. For example, that was revealed in Uganda, and the authorities ordered the elements claiming to be promoting "the call" [al-da'wah] to leave the country. One of the elements deported from Uganda is now the Sudanese regime's consul in Addis Ababa. In Kenya, the residence permit of one of the elements was not renewed, so he moved to Kampala, where he works now as a coordinator for Islamic groups in east Africa. Elements from these groups were even behind the unrest in Kenya. But the dangerous thing is the alliance of convenience between Iran and the al-Turabi front.

[Al-Qurashi] After Khartoum's agreement to discuss "the right to self-determination" for the south, do you believe that the negotiations will succeed in producing results?

[Khalid] We must differentiate between Khartoum's agreement to the "right to self-determination" and its agreement to include this point on the agenda. The second point is that the movement is talking about the right of self-determination not for the southerners only, but for all the nationalities fighting among its ranks. And it rejects Khartoum's views and philosophy. [passage omitted]

Saudi Support for Rebel Movement Alleged

Government Has 'Evidence'

EA0506195292 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Sudan has been following the positions of the government of King Fahd, which are hostile to our people and their civilized orientation, and their choice of God's book as the arbitrator, since the early days of the Sudan's National Salvation Revolution, which was prompted by the hope of unlimited support from the Saudi Kingdom in all spheres and arenas, including that of the civil war in the south involving the stooge rebel movement - an arena in which the objective is Arabism, Islam, and the unity of national soil.

The National Salvation Revolution's faith in the Saudi Kingdom and the government of the servant of the two holy mosques did not come out of nothing. The revolution, with a true Islamic orientation, filled an Islamic gap and is a true bridge for Arabism and Islam towards Africa, a continent which is still virgin. The Sudanese revolution's faith in the Saudi Kingdom was great. Why should it not be so, since it [Saudi Arabia] is the protector of Islam and the servant of the two holy mosques?

[Passage omitted]

[But] the government of [King] Fahd has tried to distort facts and mislead people in a statement in which it replied to Sudan's reference to the three ships provided by the Kingdom for the stooge rebel movement. This was a shipment of arms and equipment designed to ruin and destroy the Muslim Sudanese people. The Government of Sudan has evidence which condemns the Saudi Government and proves its scandalous involvement in supporting the rebels.

It, that is, the Sudan Government, knows the captains of the three ships by name [words indistinct]. In addition, it has the name of the official in the African state through which Fahd's government tried to transport the shipment to the rebel movement, and which refused to have the shipment unloaded on its territory. Sudan has outflanked the moves of Saudi intelligence and its employees in neighboring African states in its desperate attempt to provide support for the movement in order to rescue it from the abyss which it is in. [passage omitted on rebel movement under siege]

Sudan's press has avoided linking the Kingdom's name with actions that frankly declare hostility to Islam. It [Saudi Arabia] is the protector of Islam and the servant of the two hold mosques. After routing the rebellion in the southern towns, our Armed Forces found equipped

vehicles and ammunition that were directed against Muslims. They bore the motto: There is no God except God - the motto of the Saudi Kingdom.

The Sudanese information [media], which enjoys credibility and strives for accuracy, refutes the allegations in the Kingdom's statement. The Sudanese information [media] avoided mentioning the name of Saudi Arabia and was content with insinuating that it was a Gulf Arab State. Perhaps it [Saudi Arabia] repents or at least is prevented by shame from proceeding with such nefarious acts which, at the least, can be described as being against Islam and against the wish of the Muslim people in Saudi Arabia. Even if the statement of the government of the servant of the two holy mosques tried to mislead public opinion about Sudan's actions, the proof has come from Abuja where peace negotiations are being held with the rebels who admitted that Arab assistance was being provided to them.

[passage omitted]

The royal [Saudi] statement did not forget even the loans which the previous [Sudanese] Governments took up and which were repayable. We say here to the [Saudi] kingdom's government that we recognize everything the Saudi people offered and we very much appreciate it. However, we say to the Saudi people that this support, which was being offered in your name, was only offered during the governments that preceded the Salvation [Sudan's Revolution] and which adopted secularism as a constitution and temporized in choosing the Islamic shari'ah as the arbitrator. [passage omitted] Finally, the government of the Kingdom had wanted, through its support for the rebel movement, to extinguish the light of God. [passage omitted]

'Trained Fahd' Denounced

EA0806195092 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 7 June 92

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Jun (SUNA)—A Sudanese radio has said in a political commentary that the blessed forces have, by recovering Kapoeta, answered the message of the custodian of the two holy mosques, the imprisoned Fahd [fahd is also Arabic for cheetah], in the iron cage of America, who has no power except to carry out what is dictated to him, such as supporting the Nicaraguan contras and the Soviet Union with 4 billion dollars, besides inputs for suspected black marketeers, such as happened in the case with the ship Al-Qalb Al-Arabi seized recently in Italy. [sentence as received] The Italian deputy public prosecutor decided to confiscate the weapons and to detain the ship, which was carrying 39 tons of weapons.

This trained Fahd is not ashamed to send during the holy month three ships from the Port of Yanbu carrying military supplies to the [rebel] movement so as to beef up what the [Christian] churches and the Jews were already giving. When these ships reached the Port of Mombasa, the port authorities thought they were carrying food and medicine for the people of Africa, but in fact they were carrying various types of weapons from the king of a Muslim country for the people of Sudan to fight one another. However, the Kenyan people's deep regard for neighborliness did not allow them to bear this sin.

The hands of the servant of the two holy places are dripping with blood from the first Gulf War between Iraq and Iran. There was also his support for the Phalangist Party of Lebanon in the Lebanese war against the Shiite Hizballah. He also used the [United States] Marines to support him as a king. He agreed that the land of Hejaz [in Saudi Arabia] should remain an arsenal for those [words indistinct] of the coming war.

This is the same Fahd who gathered together the worthless and the incompetent from among old men of the rebellion [words indistinct]. He fears an Islamic economy and jihad, which Sudan has been calling for, as well as Sudan's relations with Iran. It is the same Fahd who issued orders that Sudan should not be supported, not even allowing the free movement of traders, money transfers, or individual investments. He banned the sending of car tires [to Sudan] during the tire crisis. He also placed an embargo on donations by citizens to support their fellow citizens affected by the 1988 flash floods [in Sudan].

The messages of imams and religious preachers have exposed to the betrayer [kha'in] of the two holy places the lies of his radio station [as received], which is trying to deny the shameful acts of and charges against its king, not only those which have been coming from Sudan but even from his own ulema [Muslim scholars]. These were messages not penned by the hands of the people of Iraq, Yemen or the National Salvation Revolution of Sudan, but were in fact written by the shaykhs of Hejaz, and we mention among them 'Abd al-Muhsin Bin Nasir al-Aytan, Ibrahim Bin Salih al-Khudayri, and dozens of others.

That radio station denied, on behalf of its king, the charges of the rebel movement about the three ships carrying weapons. This is the king whom America has made an equal to the compassionate [al- Rahman, one of God's names]. He ingratiates himself with it [the United States], using the dignity of Islam and delivering to it the Muslim resources, hoping to remain under its protection as one of the immortals.

The Sudanese radio also said in its political commentary that this king feared what [words indistinct] in Sudan and so formed espionage cells, and Sudan, out of modesty, used to refer to them as belonging to Arab states. Does that [Saudi] radio station want us to reveal minutes of meetings, documents, and certificates? If Sudan is as weak as that radio station claims, then why does it not mention its own security fugitives who are under the care and protection of America?

So as not to arouse doubts, that radio broadcast the text of a message sent to the betrayer of the two holy places by Numayri, who still thinks of himself as the unique ruler

of Sudan, and who stayed in power for so long, but who made the people suffer so much during his era. He confirms in his message the soundness of the king's position in all matters relating to Sudan and assures him of the restoration of the May [regime of Numayri], thus distorting the king's views.

The limited knowledge of the monarchy in the land of the Hejaz made it an open door to Sudan through which entered the beasts of the rebellion which ate from the Muslims' plates knowing that the [Saudi] regime would not rise against a face having American features. In gratitude, the rebels prepared a flock of crows to take part in the Gulf war. Thus the regime was confused and America sent it the junk of the Shah of Iran, Marcos of the Philippines, and the masters of Egypt [words indistinct] Sudan. Fahd is not the only one of the agents who has been trained.

The Muslim peoples nonetheless must have their say because they are tired of their chains, and instances of this are those letters of the leading ulema from among the scholars of the Hejaz who spoke clearly about the deterioration of the condition of the people, and about espionage and searches.

As is customary with that regime, it keeps recalling the grants and gifts given to Sudan, which actually stopped at the figure of 700,000 riyals. We wonder, with the Muslim and Arab people of the Hejaz, how many billions that regime has given to the atheist leaders in the Kremlin; how many billions it has spent on the Gulf war; how many billions it spends daily on the doings of the princes; and how many billions it gave to the environmentalists in the British capital?

Long live the revolution which made Sudan take care of its own affairs and revealed to the Muslims the extent of the betrayal of Islam in the name of Muslim kings.

Israel-Saudi Connection Cited

EA0806073092 Khartoum SUNA in English 1735 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Jun (SUNA)—The daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI issued here Sunday [7 June] has reviewed in its editorial an issue under the title of Zionist Fingers Behind Saudi Behavior.

The daily said that the Saudi presentation for repairing the holy locations in Al-Quds [Jerusalem] town did not come from a keenness for the safety of the holy territories, adding that it also work door [as received] for ending the captivity of the lands. The issue made a revising [as received] between the attitude of King Fahd who submitted the said presentation through an international foundation like what the Zionist wanted, and the situation of late King Faysal who had expressed his firm wish to conduct prayers at Al-Quds mosque.

The Saudi oil had been utilized in the recent decade to weaken the value of another oil so that the United States can purchase the oil at a lower price compared with its oil products in America, the editorial said.

The daily went on to say that the Saudi (?service) is continuing and endangered our countries through weapons and financial assistance to the rebel movement which considers as serving Israel against the Islamic orientation. [sentence as received]

Umma Says Allegations 'False'

LD0506175192 Riyadh SPA in English 1229 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Riyadh, June 5, SPA—The Sudanese Umma Party has deplored the false allegations spelled out by the Sudanese regime against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

These false allegations aim at undermining the existing fraternal relations between the Kingdom and Sudan, said a statement released by the party today.

The regime of al-Bashir which had earlier supported the injustice befallen on Kuwait, by such false allegations against the Kingdom, is actually culminating its shameful record, said the statement.

The Umma Party would like to reiterate its condemnation to this shameful manner followed by the Sudanese regime, added the statement.

The statement praised the generous support extended by the Kingdom to Sudan as well as he good and fraternal treatment of the Kingdom to the members of the Sudanese community residing in the Kingdom.

UDP on 'Groundless' Accusations

LD0606073992 Riyadh SPA in English 1944 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Jeddah, June 5, SPA—The Sudanese Unionist Democratic Party (UDP) on Friday issued a statement deploring the allegations and groundless accusations of the Sudanese ruler against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The party confirmed that such malicious lies are a main part of the Sudanese regime's strategy, which aims at sowing the seeds of dissension among brothers.

The statement pointed to the regime's shameful position during the Gulf crisis, when it supported the Iraqi invasion and occupation of sisterly Kuwait.

The statement, which was signed by Dr. Ahmad al-Sayed Ahmad, the member of the UDP political bureau and issued in Cairo, applauded the Kingdom's constant support to the Sudanese people and stressed that such positions can only be denied by an ungrateful person.

"The Sudanese people who have been known for their gratefulness and noble Islamic ethics have special feelings of appreciation for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which has given without the least attempt to interfere in the Sudan's internal affairs, as it usually does," the statement said.

Regime's 'Lies' Against Saudi Ar

LD0806205792 Riyadh SPA in English 1935 GMT 8 Jun 92

abia

[Text] Dammam, June 8, SPA—Several Suc
lanese poli-
tics have expressed their resentment of th
e malicious
lies of the Sudanese regime against the K
ingdom of
Saudi Arabia, confirming the honourable Su
danese citi-
zens' rejection of the regime's misleading lie
s.

They warned of the goals that al-Bashir's
regime is
aiming to achieve by this campaign and expr
essed their
confidence in the Sudanese people's awaren
ess of these
goals.

Former member of the Sudanese Supreme Sta
te Council,
General Abd-al-Rahman Sa'id said the Kin
gdom has
been extending assistance to the Sudanese p
eople for a
long time and treats Sudanese residents kind
ly, which is
always appreciated by them.

He added that the current Sudanese regime
has always
been aggressive towards its people and neigh
bours, and
violated Islamic and civilized norms.

Prominent member of the Umma party Abd
-al-Hassan
Faraj said the Saudi-Sudanese relations h
ave always
been brotherly and the Kingdom has taken
in tens of
thousands of Sudanese people to work and
extended
massive assistance to the Sudanese people
during the
times of natural disasters and to bolster de
velopment
plans.

He said al-Bashir's lies aim at keeping up Ara
b rifts and
damaging sincere attempts to realize Arab so
lidarity.

Meanwhile, former Sudanese Minister of St
ate Mahdi
Dawod al-Lehaifah said al-Bashir's regime st
ill has sus-
picious relations with the Iraqi regime despite
the latter's
crimes against the whole Arab nation.

Former parliamentarian Dr. Mahjoub 'Ali sai
d the head
of the Sudanese regime has no political backg
round and
thinks the method of blackmail would be use
ful to him.

He added that if al-Bashir knew the desires
and ambi-
tions of the Sudanese people, he would work
to cement
relations binding them with brothers instead
of hurling
accusations and lies at brotherly and friendly
countries.

Iraqi Relations Witnessing 'Great Develo
pments'

*EA0706170092 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 10
31 GMT 6 Jun 92*

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Jun (SUNA)—Mr. 'Abd
al-Samad
Hamid al-Ta'ish, the Iraqi ambassador to Khar
toum, has
stressed that Sudanese-Iraqi relations are
witnessing
great developments in the popular and offic
ial fields,
noting the clear agreement between the two co
untries in
all areas and at all levels.

The Iraqi ambassador in Khartoum clarifi
d, in an
interview with AL-INQADH AL-WATANI,
that the
economic blockade imposed on Iraq had led to the death of more than 68,000 Iraqi citizens of different ages. His excellency said that blockading 18 million Iraqi citizens under hard and cruel conditions, following a war that destroyed much of the infrastructure, had killed 19,893 children under five years of age and 4,823 over five years of age.

Talks With Ethiopia Said 'Progressing Well'

EA0906185092 Khartoum SUNA in English 1748 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Jun (SUNA)—Deputy first undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ali Numayri explained that the Sudanese Ethiopian talks are progressing well. He said that the viewpoints of the two sides were identical in most of the issues discussed, which included consultation and co-ordination in bilateral and regional issues. He explained that the joint sessions between the two ministries of foreign affairs in Sudan and Ethiopia came within the context of the agreement of friendship and cooperation signed between the two countries on last October 24th. The agreement has dealt with strengthening the relations between the two countries in all spheres for the benefit of the two peoples in Sudan and Ethiopia, realisation of peace and security in the Horn of Africa and contribution to the restoration of peace and security at the international level.

He concluded that the Sudanese-Ethiopian discussions stressed the distinguished relations between the two countries.

Tunisia

President Introduces Partial Government Reshuffle

LD0906174192 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Bin Ali met this morning at Carthage Palace with Prime Minister Hamed Karoui. Following the meeting, Mr. Karoui announced that the president had introduced a partial change to the government whereby the following appointments were made:

Mr. Sadok Chaabane:	minister of justice.
Mr. Mohamed Ghanouchi:	minister of international cooperation and foreign investment.
Nouri Zorgati:	minister of finance.
Charaf Eddine Galloub:	minister of equipment and housing.

Mohamed Mehdi Mlika:	minister of the environment and territorial development.
Tahar Haj Ali:	minister of transportation.
Moncer Rouissi:	minister of vocational training and employment.
Salah Hanachi:	secretary of state to the minister of international cooperation and foreign investment.

Ben Ali Says Democratic Process 'Irreversible'

LD0506223592 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali stated that the democratic process in Tunisia is irreversible. He expressed the determination to stop the extremist religious current.

In a statement to REUTERS news agency, which it carried today, the head of state said that the democratic experiment that we have gained until now and in less than five years—as a result of the participation of all the dynamic forces in the country—gives us more faith in continuing along this path, which is irreversible.

He stated that the danger of religious extremism is real and constitutes a threat to democratic values and human rights; therefore, we are determined to stop this current, especially when it has been proved that it is affiliated to the international fundamentalist network that spread its poisons in a number of Islamic world countries—I have previously referred to the center of its leadership.

President Ben Ali said that the extremists of this movement—by relying on brainwashing the youths, using terrorism and violence, conspiring against the state and its institutions, rejecting of democratic methods, and their attempt to infiltrate the state structures—have not only condemned themselves to being left out of national consensus, but they have also harmed the mission of Islam, which they claimed to defend.

Replying to a question concerning the developments in the Arab Maghreb area and the influence of the Libyan-West crisis, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali observed that there is still hope for arriving at a settlement of Libya's crisis with the West concerning the Lockerbie affair. He explained that while the efforts that are being made have not come to any result, they do nevertheless give good prospects for reaching a satisfactory solution.

Concerning the Middle East crisis, the president stated that the major powers that are permanent Security Council members should exert more pressures for the sake of arriving at a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

Ennahdha Leader on Trials, Lauds Djerejian Speech

PM0906123592 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Jun 92 p 4

[Zuhayr Qusaybati report: "Ghannouchi Expects Death Sentences Against Ennahdha Movement Leaders"]

[Excerpts] London—Cheikh Rachid Ghannouchi, leader of the outlawed Ennahdha movement in Tunisia, expects "the emergency military court whose sessions begin today in the Tunisian capital" to issue death sentences against the movement's leaders.

He emphasized to AL-HAYAH that that potential punishment will not abolish his right to political asylum in Britain, and that the British authorities have not rejected his request for asylum.

He praised the statements made by Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, who last week announced that the United States "does not view Islam as the ideological threat to the West or as a threat to international peace." "Nor does it see any unity or international coordination" among Islamic movements in the Middle East and North Africa.

Ghannouchi stressed that "the Ennahdha was surprised by the Tunisian authorities' rush to announce the trials, which will begin Monday (today) and affect 188 movement leaders, among them people who have been detained since December 1990, although Tunisian law allows only 10 days' precautionary arrest."

He said that the trials "were not being actively prosecuted, and their quick announcement did not give the detainees the chance to arrange the defense." He expected the trials "to be quick and result in death sentences, some in absentia and others against in particular Hamadi al-Jibali, Sadik Chouro, Ali Arid, and Habin Louz, who are all detained in Tunis."

He ruled out the possibility that a similar sentence against him would abolish his right to political asylum in Britain. He indicated that that the British authorities were still considering his application for asylum. "There are deep-rooted traditions in this country, and people from our movement have been granted this right in France, Germany, Belgium, and Spain."

He added "the Ennahdha movement's file is political, and the trials to be conducted are trials of opinion on which Amnesty International's position is clear." He said: "Whatever our disagreement, the matter should not reach the point of bloodshed." He reiterated that the movement "is continuing its organizational political course through its belief in peaceful action. And it is adapting to factors and conditions according to the scale of the aggression it faces. We operate openly within the framework of the law and cooperate with opposition movements through a fixed line."

On the fate of cooperation between "the outlawed Ennahdha in Tunisia and the outlawed Islamic Salvation

Front in Algeria" he said: "Each of us has his own problem in his own country." He expressed his hope that no death sentences will be issued at the end of the month against the front's leaders, first and foremost Cheikhs Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, "because such sentences harm Algeria's image." [passage omitted]

And finally the Ennahdha leader regarded Djerejian's statements in the speech which he delivered last Tuesday at the "Meridian House" establishment as proof "of awareness and an awakening, and as an indication of refusal to deal with erroneous views about Islam and Islamists." [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Meets U.S. Secretary Cheney

LD0506185292 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] During his working visit to Washington National Defense Minister Abdelaziz Ben Dhia held talks with U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney. Their talks focused on areas of mutual interest and the current international scene, particularly regional questions.

Following their meeting Abdelaziz Ben Dhia and Dick Cheney presided over the opening session of the 11th Tunisian-U.S. military joint committee.

The ministers emphasized the commitment of the two countries to strengthening friendly relations and furthering bilateral ties in all areas.

Western Sahara

Former Polisario Official Defects to Morocco

LD0606162892 Rabat MAP in English 1332 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Rabat, June 6 (MAP)—Sheikh Bamba Ali Salem [name as received], a former member of the so-called "National Council of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro]" and his two sons recently defected the separatist group to join Morocco. Sheikh Bamba, who participated in the liberation war of 1957-58 against Spain, told the Moroccan TV that Sahrawis have always been bound to the Alaouite throne by the "beia" (allegiance) ties and have always expressed loyalty to the Kingdom, despite colonialist manoeuvres. Sheikh Bamba who joined the "Polisario" in 1978, as he said, under the pressure of the mercenaries and their propaganda, pointed out that after the historic royal call that the homeland was forgiving and merciful, the population in the sequestration camps of Tindouf forgot about the self-determination referendum and thought only of returning to their homeland, Morocco. The former Polisario official said that the thesis of the separatist movement in Latin America, where he lived himself, are losing ground and that some countries closed down the Polisario embassies accredited in the past. Three of his sons and his wife are still detained in the Lahmada camps, he said recalling that he appealed to the Spanish press and the human rights commission to work for their release and for the release of all the population still sequestered in the camps.

Kuwait

U.S. Ambassador's Remarks on al-Masa'id Noted

LD0906112792 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0906 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Washington, 9 Jun (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti-American Institution hailed here today the sound ties between the American and Kuwaiti peoples and the role played by the United States in liberating Kuwait from the claws of the Iraqi occupation. [passage omitted].

Meanwhile, U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait Edward Gnehm stated that the declarations made by 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Masa'id, the speaker of the Kuwaiti National Council, came at a critical phase in the election campaign. He said in a brief statement published here today in AL-WATAN that "these declarations negatively affected President Bush's campaign because they are related to one of the main points of his foreign policy."

Mr al-Masa'id had said in an interview with the weekly AL-MAJALLAH in its latest issue that in his personal view the liberation of Kuwait was based on U.S. self-interest. He also accused the American ambassador of going beyond the prerogatives of his role—in his opinion—by visiting unofficial popular gatherings [diwaniyat]. However, the U.S. Administration clarified that this represents the view of two people [as received] and does not reflect the administration's view.

U.S. Ambassador Gnehm did not rule out the fact that the results of the American TIME opinion poll which have been published recently have been influenced in one way or another by these declarations. He expressed his anger at these declarations, but he stressed that they "will not lead to any change in American strategy toward Kuwait and the commitments concluded between the two sides."

On the other hand, AL-WATAN quoted "American informed sources" as saying that the declarations of the speaker of the Kuwaiti National Council will certainly benefit the Israeli lobby campaign against supplying Kuwait and the Gulf states with sophisticated U.S. weapons systems.

Finance Minister and acting Minister of State for the Council of Ministers' Affairs Nasir al-Rawdhan stressed in a press interview in reply to what was disseminated by the media regarding the viewpoint of the National Council speaker "that what has been published in this respect represents a purely personal view." [passage omitted]

Decree Defines National 'Information Policy'

LD0906152892 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1026 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Jun (KUNA)—The minister of information, Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub, has issued a ministerial decree defining the information policy of the State of Kuwait in the light of political transformations and the development of events in the international arena.

The ministerial decree covers the basic principles on which the Kuwaiti information policy rests—commitment to Islam as a religion and belief; openness on human civilization; emphasis on deepening the confidence and the link between the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states and projecting Kuwait's Arab identity; deepening the channels of media contact between the bases of society and the leaderships.

The decree also calls for safeguarding moral values and entrenching their effect on behavior, practice and their contribution toward molding the personality of the Kuwaiti man, who takes part in the responsibility of decision-making of his homeland.

The ministerial decree defines the aims of the information policy of the State of Kuwait, namely to project the link of the Kuwaiti man with his land and his history, and to stress total allegiance to the homeland and to exploit its potentials and energies on the basis of the concept of comprehensive development.

The decree also calls for drawing up an information policy on bases which must be planned in advance, and encouraging the establishment of special machinery to measure public opinion for the purpose of knowing the views of the citizens concerning the methods of the media.

The decree also calls for modernizing the laws and legislation operating at the present time in the various fields of information and for Kuwaiti information media to exercise an enlightened and constant pursuit of all domestic and foreign issues.

The decree also stresses the need to take an interest in the youth of both sexes, to nurture the gifted among them and to encourage them materially and morally, and to strengthen the role of the family as a basic unit in the building of society.

It also stresses the importance of reviving the popular, Arab and Islamic heritage, supporting a scientific and cultural upsurge by encouraging researchers, scientists, and of nurturing the theater and fine arts so as to project the cultural and civilized image of Kuwait.

The decree also calls for the continuity of the information machinery, institutions and bodies in order to complement each other, to promote good taste as a way of life, and to pay attention to the recreational sides of information work.

The decree also stresses the role of women in building society as a citizen, mother, wife, and a working woman, as well as stressing the importance of the childhood stage in building the personality of the individual and giving this stage the attention it deserves on the basis that information material is presented to them on educational bases.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Honduras 8 Jun

LD0906092792 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Excerpts] A meeting was held today in Tegucigalpa at the headquarters of the Foreign Ministry of the Honduras Republic between the Kuwaiti delegation accompanying his highness the amir of Kuwait and the Honduras side comprising the foreign, finance, planning, natural resources and economics ministers and governor of the Central Bank. [passage omitted]

Documents on the planned declaration of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two friendly countries were signed. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Iraqi Allegations of Mistreating Pilgrims Denied

LD0906235192 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2235 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Mecca, 9 June (SPA)—Saudi Arabia today categorically denied what Iraqi Religious Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil said in a news conference, which was relayed today by REUTER. Fadil made false and completely unfounded allegations that 10 Iraqi pilgrims have died because of Saudi ill treatment. He stated other falsehoods and fabrications during the aforementioned news conference.

This came in a statement by a responsible source to SPA in which he emphasized that the Iraqi official has lied in the nonsense and falsehoods he said and claimed in a clear attempt to defame Saudi Arabia and its institutions, which are responsible for providing the best services to those who come to the Holy House of God [the Kaaba].

The source added: The minister, who claims to be responsible for the religious affairs in Iraq while the Islamic faith has no existence among the clique of the ruling regime in Iraq, persisted in his course, which contradicts all religious and ethical realities, when he lied to God in everything he said at the news conference, or rather the despicable conspiracy against truth, values, and morals.

The responsible source stressed that what was said by the Iraqi minister was something expected because it emanates from a grudging heart and a man gripped with tension, especially after hearing today the remarks of a huge gathering of Iraqi personalities and Kurdish tribes' chieftans. They had arrived in the Kingdom to perform the ordinance of hajj, and expressed their deep appreciation and gratitude to the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz for the special care and attention the pilgrims were enjoying in the Holy House of God.

The source went on to say it has been known about the Iraqi regime's officials that they repeat the instructions and orders issued to them, and this minister, who is said to be responsible for religious affairs, was the first to violate these affairs when he lied to God. God the almighty speaks the truth when he says: "Those who lie to God will not succeed."

Moroccans, Egyptians Praise Hajj Services

LD0806204892 Riyadh SPA in English 1937 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Jeddah, June 8, SPA—Several heads of Hajj delegations have praised the services extended by the Saudi Government to pilgrims and described them as an extension of the Kingdom's Islamic responsibilities.

The Moroccan Minister of Trade and Industry Abdullah Azmani [name as received] said the comprehensive urban development and giant leaps witnessed in all fields in the Kingdom "confirm our deep belief and gratitude for the people and Government of the Kingdom and their great services to the guests of Allah the compassionate".

The Egyptian Minister of Justice Faruq Sayf al-Nasr said the efforts of the custodian of the two holy mosques to support Arab causes boost the positions of the Arab and Islamic nations.

In press statements issued on Monday, a number of Iraqi pilgrims have praised the great services extended by the Saudi Government to all pilgrims and expressed their thanks and appreciation for the custodian of the two holy mosques for the care they receive in the Kingdom.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the Egyptian Liberals Party Mostafa Kamel Murad has expressed his appreciation to the custodian of the two holy mosques for the facilitations extended to Egyptian pilgrims in particular and all pilgrims in general.

Iraqi Pilgrims Praise Services

LD0906161992 Riyadh SPA in English 1306 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Jeddah, June 9, SPA—A number of Iraqi pilgrims have praised the good services the Kingdom was extending to pilgrims.

In press statements published yesterday, the Iraqi pilgrims expressed their deep thanks and appreciation to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz for the good hospitality and care given to them since their arrival in the Kingdom.

The pilgrims noted the position the Kingdom was occupying among its Muslim colleagues.

The Iraqis also noted the Kingdom attitude towards all Muslims irrespective of their governments.

Yemen

YSP Central Committee Statement Issued 8 Jun

JN0906104692 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1720 GMT 8 Jun 92

["Text" of statement issued by the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party, YSP, at the conclusion of its "27th extraordinary session" on 8 June, carried within the "News Follow-Ups" program]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee held its 27th extraordinary session under the chairmanship of brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and vice chairman of the Presidential Council, during the period 6-7 June.

During the session's meetings, the Central Committee discussed the important issues facing the current political situation in the Republic of Yemen which concern the citizens' lives and the overall situation in the country as well as the future of democracy and unity in Yemen. In its meetings, the Central Committee discussed with extreme interest the security issue as well as the phenomenon of violence and political assassinations, and affirmed that the acts of violence and political assassinations are not targeted against a specific party or figure, but rather against the country's security and stability, the public peace, and the democratic experience, not to mention the development march, Yemen's reputation on the Arab and world scenes, and the unity of the homeland.

Hence, the Central Committee believes that firm confrontation of these acts and enhancement of security and stability constitute a major issue that tops the national priority list of the tasks posed to the state and society and all political forces and the people's masses, particularly since a joint perspective must be drawn up by the YSP and the General People's Congress, as well as all other political parties and organizations, not only to unearth and bring to trial the forces and elements which instigate and carry out such acts, but also to take practical steps to implement the tasks posed to the unified state in terms of organizing and implementing a security plan and conducting follow-up work on the implementation of such a plan. These steps are also necessary for reorganizing and redeploying the defense and security forces on sound bases in the public interest and to help these organs perform their roles.

Similarly, the Central Committee would like to affirm the importance of all nationalist parties making concerted efforts to tackle once and for all the problems resulting from tribal reprisals in order to enhance national unity, bolster security and stability, and pave the way for launching a development endeavor in all governorates of the republic. Legal and deterrent action must be taken against any elements that might attempt to undermine the bases agreed for ending the series of tribal reprisals.

The Central Committee reviewed the march of unity construction since the inception of the Republic of Yemen, and affirmed that the YSP deems it extremely important that the transitional period end on schedule, and also that all necessary conditions be created for the holding of free and direct general parliamentary elections on schedule. The Central Committee also urges political forces, nationalist figures, as well as all masses of the people to show further vigilance to thwart the forces which are attempting to obstruct the homeland's efforts to cope with this critical phase in our national construction endeavor in a manner that would create the proper normal conditions for ending the transitional period, entrenching democratic practices, continuing the march of development, and ensuring the citizens' security and stability.

For this purpose, the Central Committee affirms that the YSP will continue to do its best, along with the General People's Congress, and the remaining political parties and organizations, as well as nationalist figures and mass organizations to achieve what has remained of the tasks that need to be accomplished during the transitional phase and prepare for the general parliamentary elections. The committee affirmed the importance of continuing the dialogue among them to reach a joint national perspective regarding all major problems to ensure a sound future political life and safeguard the course of the democratic experience.

Furthermore, the Central Committee affirmed the YSP's adherence to the program of national construction and reform, which reflects the joint perspective of the YSP, the General People's Congress, and other political forces. It deems its implementation a proper prelude for reforming the administrative and financial systems and combating all manifestations of administrative and financial corruption, and for achieving development.

The Central Committee attached great importance to the internal partisan issues and considered the results of the meetings held by the preparatory committee tasked with preparing for the fourth YSP Congress. It affirmed that efforts must continue to prepare the documents and make the required preparations for the convening of this congress, and decided to hold an extraordinary session of the Central Committee prior to the convening of the congress.

The Central Committee adopted numerous internal partisan decisions. It assigned Assistant Secretary General brother Salim Salih Muhammad the task of presiding over the secretariat of the Central Committee. The Committee decided to add some of its members to the Political Bureau. They are: Anis Hasan Yahya, 'Ali Salih

'Ubad Muqbil, 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Qadir, Abu-Bakr 'Abd-al-Razzaq (?Badus), Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, Dr. Muhammad Qasim [family name indistinct]. Moreover, the Central Committee requested Abu-Bakr (?Badus) to be chief editor of the newspaper (?AL-THAWRAH), mouthpiece of the YSP Central Committee, and appointed brother 'Ali Salih 'Ubad Muqbil as first secretary of the YSP organization in Abyan, brother Dr. Hasan Muhammad al-'Amlah as secretary of the Masses Department, and brother Dr. Muhammad 'Awad al-Sa'di as secretary of the Economic Department affiliated with the Central Committee's secretariat.

Minister Condemns Saudi 'Mistreatment' of Pilgrims

JN0906192192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jun (INA)—Awqaf and Religi Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil has condemned ous inhuman and unethical treatment and tragic conditi the suffered by Iraqi pilgrims in the holy lands. ons

Speaking at a news conference attended by correspo dents from foreign radio and television networks, on press agencies in Iraq, the minister described the Saud authorities' practices against and mistreatment of mudi than 10,000 Iraqi pilgrims since they entered Sa ore territory as conflicting with the teachings of Islam. udi

He said the Saudi authorities held the Iraqi pilgrims the desert and prevented them from going to Medina a in visiting the tomb of Prophet Muhammad, may God and peace and prayers be upon him. The Iraqis were ad's deprived of food and water, and were sent to live in te lso that lack the most fundamental means of comfort. nts

As a result, he said, hundreds of pilgrims suffe sunstroke amid harsh treatment represented by insu ed and swearing. Our pilgrims met the Saudi mistreatm lts with denunciation and condemnation, he added. ent

Mr. Fadil said the Saudi authorities practiced the ugl methods against the Iraqi pilgrims. These were repe st sented by three days of inspections at the borders, insu re- and curses, and the imposition of a tax of 445 Sa lts riyals on every pilgrim before entering Saudi territory di perform the sacred hajj. to

He said the dignity and sanctity of Iraqi Muslim wom were damaged when they were separated from the n accompanying sons, brothers, and husbands. Their women were harassed, which irritated the pilgrims a se caused their denunciation in the Saudi region of 'Ar nd ar.

The Awqaf and religious affairs minister pointed o that the Iraqi pilgrims were the targets of thefts a ut result of continuous inspections by the Saudi authoriti a For example, he explained, $36,000 and 228,000 Sau s. riyals were stolen from the chairman of one of the Ira di companies transporting pilgrims. He said the Saudi authorities stole money from women and citizens und di weak pretexts. er

He said the Saudi authorities on Sunday allowed Ira pilgrims to visit Mecca. But the pilgrims were taken qi force to the city and to the holy sites in Mina. He sa y these acts conflict with humane behavior and with Ara d and Islamic ethics. They also contradict with the mo b fundamental duties of the Saudi regime toward pilgrim st who must be taken care of and treated well, he said. s,

The awqaf and religious affairs minister urged the awq ministers of the Muslim states and the Islamic organiza f tions, societies, and unions in the world to expose tha ugly crime and the Saudi authorities' inhumane an s unethical conduct against the Iraqi pilgrims. d

He said: These arbitrary acts and the harm done to pilgrims from Iraq and the Muslim world are not new. In 1990 and months before the Mother of Battles, the Saudi regime's authorities committed an ugly crime in Mina during the hajj season which resulted in the death of thousands of Muslim pilgrims of various nationalities, including 27 Iraqi pilgrims, in al-Mu'aysim Tunnel. The crime resulted in the death of innocent pilgrims from Malaysia, Indonesia, Turkey, India, Pakistan, Africa, and various Muslim countries.

Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs 'Abdallah Fadil 'Abbas urged the Jeddah-based Islamic Conference Organization and its secretary general to include this crime and the Saudi rulers' acts, which violate religious and ethical responsibility, on the agenda of the next meeting of the foreign ministers of the Muslim states.

The minister urged the Islamic awqaf ministers in the Muslim world to attend a special meeting to discuss the hajj affairs and the bad conduct and the disgraceful treatment practiced by the Saudi regime and agencies against all pilgrims.

He said: He who cannot provide services and take care of the pilgrims fairly and detached from any political position is certainly unqualified to run the holy sites in Mecca and Medina.

He added that the Saudi regime lost its religious qualification when it sought help from the infidels and the polytheists, violated the commands of God and the noble Prophet, and desecrated the Muslims' sacred places in Mecca and holy Medina to launch the aggression against Iraq.

The minister said the Saudi regime has lost its qualification to religious administration and it is now necessary to allow a joint Islamic organization to supervise hajj in Mecca, Medina, and other sites in order to stop the Saudi regime from continuing to impose its oppression and hegemony over the Muslim world's pilgrims.

He added that it is no longer acceptable to ignore these ugly acts and conduct, which are repeated all the time against the pilgrims of any country when its political relations with the Saudi regime worsen or when there are some differences with this or that country because the holy places belong to all Muslims.

Concluding his news conference, 'Abdallah Fadil said Iraq will demand damages for the savage acts to which the Iraqi pilgrims were subjected. He said: We will file a lawsuit against Fahd and his regime and hold him, officially and personally, responsible for every drop of blood spilled and for the robbery of, and the disgraceful acts against Iraqi pilgrims.

Opposition Conference To Be Held in Vienna 16 Jun

JN0906165092 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 8 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] Vienna, QNA—On 16 June 1992, a conference of the Iraqi opposition will be held in the Austrian capital

with the aim of realizing accord between the various opposition factions, forming a coalition government inside Iraq or in exile, and electing a transitional national council.

Sources for the Iraqi opposition in Vienna said yesterday that the call has been made to the liberal and progressive parties, as well as a number of independent political personalities, to attend the conference. The conference will be the second largest expanded gathering for the Iraqi opposition since the first conference which was held in Beirut after the liberation of Kuwait.

U.S. Rejects Anti-Saddam Opposition Action

NC0906153892 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 6 Jun 92 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Excerpts] Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo report that the United States has informed some Arab states that it rejects for now any military action against Saddam Husayn by the Iraqi opposition. Some Arab states have placed restrictions on the Iraqi opposition's political and propaganda activities. [passage omitted]

The sources said that Syria is not enthusiastic about hosting the Iraqi opposition's second conference in Damascus. Cairo has also refused to host a meeting of the opposition factions.

Southern Oil Pipeline Project Operational

JN0906194292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1242 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Al-Basrah, southern Iraq, 9 Jun (INA)—Oil is flowing through the pipeline project linking the booster pumping station in al-Zubayr with the oil receiving system in al-Faw. The pipeline project was implemented by the Oil Projects and Southern Oil Companies. It is 101 kilometers long and has a pumping capacity of 1,017,000 barrels per day.

An INA correspondent in al-Basrah Governorate cited the director general of the Oil Projects Company as saying that this pipeline has given the Southern Oil Company a large oil exporting capacity through Iraqi ports. This is because it will be used along with the eastern pipelines to pump three types of oil, rather than two as the case had been before the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression.

He said that the two companies have managed to link the pipeline with the oil receiving system in al-Faw, which pumps oil through the northern sea pipeline to Mina' al-Bakr terminal on the Arabian Gulf. He indicated that the two companies have filled the pipeline with oil, having successfully completed the cleaning and water testing processes of the pipeline and its sections.

To execute the pipeline project, the Oil Projects Company, for the first time, extended 330 meters of it through the Shatt al-Basrah waterway, having coated it with reinforced concrete, thus bringing the total weight of this section to 550 tonnes. Engineering and technical cadres executing this project were forced to extend the pipeline through submerged areas and intersections with railways and power cables.

Gas Official on Production in North

JN0706152592 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Karkuk, June 7, INA—Iraq is currently producing from its northern oilfields some 240,000,000 cubic feet of gas per day an oil expert said recently. Husayn al-Hadithi, director-general of the Northern Region Gas Industry Department, said the current output represents half of the amount production capacity of the department before the imposition of the embargo and the U.S.-led war against Iraq. Al-Hadithi told local press last week that his department used to produce 536,000,000 cubic feet of gas a day.

He said production was reduced to half because of the heavy damage inflicted on the department's installations in Karkuk as a result of the allied bombing last year. He also said export of gas to neighbouring countries stopped completely because of the U.S.-led, UN-imposed blockade on the country. The 240 million cubic feet of gas that the department is currently producing is for domestic use only.

Al-Hadithi said his department played a key role in restoring power all over the country. He said electric power generators cannot be operated without the dry gas that his department is producing. The department was able to resume production of dry gas 55 days after the end of military operations against Iraq. The department's installations were attacked severely by allied warplanes as they launched on February 3, 1991 ten air raids, dropping tens of bombs on the department's sophisticated facilities.

The department also produces liquid gas which all Iraqi families rely on for cooking and heating. Following the U.S.-led war there was great shortage in liquid gas. The government rationalised the distribution of gas which was given through coupon system.

Production of sulphur, a key product of the department, was also restored, al-Hadithi said adding that 150,000 tonnes of sulphur per year are produced currently. Before the embargo the figure was 300,000 tonnes. The sulphur produced from Karkuk oilfields is recognized internationally for its high quality. Al-Hadithi said Iraq used to export sulphur to Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, India, China and Turkey. Sulphur is used as a key material in producing fertilizers [and] textiles.

The department also produces natural gasoline which is used in petrochemical industries. The department started producing the aforementioned products late 1983 after nearly four years of construction work which

started in 1979. The project was set up by international companies, mostly from Japan. Currently the department is operated by an Iraqi staff.

The Northern Region Gas Industry Department was set up in 1980 by the Revolution Command Council, the highest authority in the country. The aim was to improve gas industry in Iraq. Before the establishment of this large project in Karkuk and a similar one in al-Basrah, Iraq used to produce only 76,000,000 cubic feet of gas per day. Most of the gas which accompanies crude oil used to be burned and not exploited, al-Hadithi said. After building these two giant projects, Iraq started to produce quantities of gas and even export it to neighbouring countries, he concluded.

Ministry Official on Work at al-Bakr

JN0806143692 Baghdad INA in English 1325 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, June 8, INA—Within the nation-wide post-war reconstruction drive, Iraqi engineers and technicians have recently reconstructed three out of four berths of al-Bakr terminal which were damaged by U.S.-allied air strikes during the war.

Oil undersecretary Fa'iz 'Abdallah Shahin was quoted by AL-THAWRAH daily as saying some 120 engineers, workers and technicians from the Southern Oil Company and Oil Projects Company of the Ministry of Oil and Ibn-Majid Project of the Military Industry Commission as well as a number of experts from Iraqi Ports Department are currently engaged in assiduous work to reconstruct the fourth berth of the terminal, adding that work is expected to be completed in July.

The present export capacity of al-Bakr terminal stands at some 800,000 barrels per day, said the brigadier [as received], indicating that the capacity will be raised to some two million barrels per day when work on the fourth berth completes.

As part of the first stage of the reconstruction drive of the terminal which was completed on January 17, 1992, the teams reconstructed and repaired two berths at a cost of two million Iraqi dinars. The work was completed in a record time by relying fully on Iraqi know-how, said the oil undersecretary.

Al-Bakr terminal had sustained damage during the Iraq-Iran war, said Shahin, adding the terminal was built by an American company at a cost of some 150 million dollars.

Telecommunications Restored in Western Cities

JN0506140392 Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 4 Jun 92 p 2

[By staff reporter]

[Text] 3 June—Radio, TV and telephone services have been restored between the western cities of Iraq the capital Baghdad and Amman as of June 1, AL-JUMHURIYAH daily reported on Monday.

Manager of the reconstruction project of the microwave networks in the western parts of Iraq Mr Sabah Muslim said that the engineers and technicians of the Telecommunications and Post Department have secured a line of TV live transmission to the people of Baghdad-al-Rutbah and Baghdad-Tirbil.

The project, he added, has saved more than 1000 telephone channels that help link the axles of Baghdad-al-Fallujah, Baghdad-al-Ramadi, al-Fallujah-al-Ramadi, Baghdad-al-Rutbah, Baghdad-Tirbil and Baghdad-Amman.

The project has also secured a TV channel to facilitate broadcast to Amman according to Mr Muslim.

He went on to say that the staff also secured two radio channels that could be used to maintain TV and telephone services. Adding that the project which was executed in bad weather has saved the country hard currency.

The cost of the reconstruction work on the project reached some 7 million Iraqi dinars [ID], said the manager, indicating that the project would have cost some ID 20 million if it was executed by foreign companies.

The staff have also managed to salvage some 15 million dinars worth of equipment and devices.

According to the resident engineer Hiyad Zayni the project was raided on January 17, saying that the attacks caused a total destruction of 17 stations and partial damage of four others.

The engineer added the reconstruction work started in June 1 1990, the work covered defusing some 4,500 unexploded bombs and lifting the debris and remains of equipment and devices, he indicated.

The work also covered repairing some 12 towers and installing diesel generators, dishes and antennas according to Mr Zayni.

The 10-million-dinars project which includes some 21 stations was built in 1989 by two Japanese and Italian companies, he said.

Work on the Tirbil-al-Ramadi axle had taken the Japanese company three years and a half to execute whereas the Iraqi staff have managed to complete the work within eleven months only.

He went on to say that work was done in cooperation with the Military Industry Commission, adding that the project is expected to be inaugurated in the course of this month.

Agricultural Official Reports 'Very Good' Harvest

JN0706153192 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, June 7, INA—The Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation sources expressed optimism over this year's wheat and barely harvest under the ongoing oppressive United Nations sanctions and said the main problem is lack of machinery to perform the operation.

"We have about 3,000 combine harvesters and some of them need spare parts which we cannot obtain because of UN sanctions", Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry Undersecretary 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Dulaymi said in an interview.

"It is a very good season", he said. "Wheat and barley cultivation went according to plan".

Al-Dulaymi refused to give any figures. Asked whether Iraq this year would exceed the 1990 figure of 1.19 million tonnes for wheat, he said: "I cannot say whether we will or not".

Saddam Chairs Guard Commanders' Meeting

JN0906145892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1413 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jun (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today chaired a meeting of Republican Guard commanders.

Saddam Briefed on Military Industrial Projects

JN0706105192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1023 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn visited the Military Industrialization Organization's [MIO's] headquarters today. His excellency met with Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president of the republic and supervisor of the industry and oil sector; Engineer Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, MIO director; and MIO officials.

The president was briefed on the overall MIO activities in the field of civilian industries, and on the projects being implemented to promote the civilian industrial sector, the agricultural sector, and major services projects.

Saddam Visits Air Force, Air Defense Command

JN0806100292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0902 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jun (INA)—Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, visited the Air Force and Air Defense Command today.

The president was welcomed on arrival and seen off when he left by Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense, and other ranking officers.

Kurdish Official Protests Elections to UN

JN1006074792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] United Nations, 9 Jun (INA)—Baha'-al-Din Ahmad, speaker of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, has reiterated that Iraq's Kurds reject the process which was imposed on them by foreign forces and called elections, that they do not recognize it, and that they consider it illegitimate.

This came in a letter sent by the Legislative Council speaker to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, whose text was published at the UN headquarters as an official UN Security Council and General Assembly document.

In his letter, Baha'-al-Din Ahmad said that the process which was conducted on 19 May, and called elections, took place in a region controlled by armed militias and the military forces of foreign states. He added that the process conflicts with Iraq's Constitution, Autonomy Law No. 33 of 1974, Legislative Council Law No. 56 of 1980, and the UN Charter.

He said that violence, and sometimes force of arms, was used to force people to participate in the process. He added that the results of these elections are unfamiliar in the entire world, namely, that two organizations, having the largest number of armed men, have equally shared seats. He said that these fabricated results can, under no circumstances, occur in any true election process.

In his letter to the UN secretary general, the speaker of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region added that Iraq's Kurdish citizens, who are represented in the Legislative Council, which was elected in a free and legitimate manner, do not recognize the process that took place on 19 May, and he who claims that he represents the Kurds of those who are protected by the spears of America, Britain, and France, do not at all represent them.

He pointed out that the military representatives of these Western states actually participated in running the process and in imposing its illogical and illegitimate results. He said: By doing so, the three states, which are permanent members of the UN Security Council, have violated the UN Charter, which, in Paragraph 7 of Article 2, calls for respecting the sovereignty of states.

In his letter, the Legislative Council speaker wondered how this process could be an expression of democracy at a time when large numbers of armed militias control the region under the military protection of the three states.

and at a time when these militias do not abide by any law and order, and impose their will on civilians under the force of arms.

He stressed that what is taking place in the Kurdistan Region constitutes a serious precedent in the international community. He said that the three states and all the sides that followed them are responsible for this serious precedent.

Assassination of PLO Official Busaysu Examined

JN0906181492 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: Martyr 'Atif Busaysu, a PLO member who was identified by some media agencies as a PLO security official, was assassinated in Paris. Brother Yasir 'Arafat, Palestinian president and PLO Executive Committee chairman, accused the Israeli intelligence service, the Mosad, of perpetrating the crime, the first of its kind against a Palestinian official in the French capital for over 10 years.

Talking about this incident and crime does not only prompt us to denounce and condemn it, and should not be limited only to shedding light on the Zionist crimes committed against our [words indistinct] people inside and outside the occupied homeland. Every Palestinian, from the smallest child holding a stone to the highest ranking Palestinian official in the revolution and the PLO, is a target of the Zionist enemy and its agencies.

In view of this assassination, emphasis must be placed on three questions. First, the responsibility of the French authorities, which encourages those who are hostile to our people and the committing of such crimes. The French authorities' backtracking and endeavors to improve relations with Tel Aviv lead them to turn a blind eye to the Zionist intelligence and criminal activity on French soil. The Zionist influence is increasing in Mitterrand's France, and the Zionist influence on French policy has reached an unprecedented level. Therefore, questions can be raised about the French authorities' measures. Doubts can also be cast on the willingness of that government to take practical steps to put an end to the disdain for France's sovereignty and interference in its domestic and security affairs.

Second, since the Cairo Declaration—according to which the PLO committed itself to halt all forms of external activity or the so-called external operations against the Zionist entity—was signed in 1985 [year as heard], the Zionist enemy has been shedding our Palestinian blood. Zionist intelligence and security agencies have committed more than one crime against our strugglers and cadres in Paris and other capitals. That declaration has become binding to the Palestinian parties, but did not entail any obligation on the Zionist enemy, who continued to act as it wished and hit in all directions when the opportunity arose.

The third question is the shedding of our Palestinian blood both inside and outside the occupied territories. Palestinian blood continues to be shed in Jerusalem, Gaza, and south Lebanon. Palestinian villages and towns are targets for occupation troops and border guards. Our camps in south Lebanon are a constant target for the enemy planes. Our bodies are targets for the Zionists in a war, whose field, the enemy thinks, extends all over the planet earth.

The war of annihilation, which is fought with various ways and means, dictates that we should reconsider certain positions and conduct a comprehensive critical assessment to face our people and confront what our cause is being exposed to. In brief, we say that any talk about peace and negotiations and about bilateral and multilateral committees means the desecration of our Palestinian flesh, of the bodies of our children, and of the souls of Palestinian cadres. A review is in order because it constitutes one of the prerequisites to put an end to the Zionist occupation crimes.

Kuwaiti Draft Resolution on Compensation 'Foiled'

JN0906152392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1238 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Geneva, 9 Jun (INA)—The Iraqi delegation to the 79th session of the International Labor Organization [ILO] has foiled an attempt by the Kuwaiti delegation to peddle a draft resolution aimed at obtaining illegitimate compensation from Iraq.

The Kuwaiti delegation was compelled to withdraw the draft resolution from the agenda of the conference after it was foiled by the Iraqi delegation, which is led by Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak, acting minister of labor and social affairs.

Attempt To Smuggle Copper, Aluminum Thwarted

JN0906153992 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 7 Jun 92 p 1

[By Subhi Jasim]

[Text] Units of the investigation and anti-smuggling department affiliated with the Public Customs Authority, have discovered a big operation to smuggle copper and aluminum. More than 350 tonnes of copper and about 80 tonnes of aluminum have been seized.

This was disclosed to AL-THAWRAH by the head of the investigation and anti-smuggling department who said: Our men in this aforementioned department have

arrested a Jordanian national J.T.A. [not further identified] after monitoring his suspicious movements. When faced with the evidence on his attempt to smuggle copper, he openly admitted that he agreed with S.T. [not further identified], an owner of copper melting factory in Jamilah area to buy 20 tonnes of copper and smuggle it out of the country.

The head of the investigation department said: Following this, we moved to Jamilah industrial area where we found quantities of copper and aluminum in the factory. We found other quantities of these materials in another factory which belongs to S.T. At first the owner of the two factories denied the charge, but after being officially interrogated, he confessed.

Saddam Congratulates New President of Mali

JN0806153892 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, June 8, INA—President Saddam Husayn sent a telegram of congratulations to Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare on assumption of his power.

In his telegram, President Husayn wished President Konare success in realizing progress and prosperity for the friendly people of Mali.

President Husayn today received a telegram of thanks from Polish President Lech Walesa in reply to his excellency's congratulatory telegram on the occasion of Poland's National Day.

Shamir—No Elections in Territories in October

TA0906141492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said there will be no elections to the national council [mo'atza le'umit] in the territories in October, despite the recent declarations to the contrary by Palestinian leaders. Shamir noted, however, that Israel agrees to negotiations on the elections.

Referring to the intifadah, Mr. Shamir said Israel is trying through trial and error to crush it. He added that, in his opinion, the price is not too costly. The policy on the Gaza Strip is to have our cake and eat it too. According to our correspondent, Yo'el Nir, Mr. Shamir went on to say the closure of the Gaza Strip, in and of itself, is not an absolute solution or the best one. The government is looking for other ways to prevent terrorism without starving the population, the prime minister remarked.

Gaza Strip Closure To Be Eased 'Further'

TA0906152092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] The defense establishment has decided to further ease the closure on the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that, as of tomorrow, Arab workers over the age of 25 will be allowed to leave for work in Israel, and they will no longer have to leave in groups of at least 10 workers. Israeli employers will be able to obtain special red work permits for their workers over the age of 25, even if only one worker is involved. The control on people entering the Gaza Strip will continue at the various checkpoints, and Israeli employers will be responsible for driving their workers to and from work. Inhabitants of the al-Nusayrat refugee camp, the place of residence of Helena Rapp's murderer, are banned from crossing the Green Line.

Army Stops Settler Convoy From Moving to Ginat

TA0906142392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Seventeen families, members of the settlement group slated to populate Ginat, north of Janin, are trying to move to the site, but police and Army troops are curbing their efforts. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld has reported that a convoy of cars carrying the settlers was stopped at an Army roadblock near the village of Salim, 7 km north of Janin. Knesset Members Ge'ula Kohen and Elyaqim Ha'etzni, many journalists, and the military commander of the area are on the scene. According to the settlers, they are trying to act on the government's pledge to allow them to settle on the site, which is currently manned by Nahal Brigade soldiers.

Settlers Leave After Ministry Promise

TA0906164692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Members of the settlement group slated to populate Ginat, who set out to visit the site of their planned settlement near Janin, which has been declared a closed area, denied access by Army and police troops. The defense minister's bureau promised them they would soon be given permission to get to the site. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that they stayed almost two hours in the area.

Settlers Move to Permanent Housing at Noqdim

TA0906100992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] The first three families moved to the settlement of Noqdim's permanent site south of Herodion today. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that there are some 30 mobile homes at the site and more than 30 houses are currently being built there. Other families currently living at the adjacent temporary location will soon move to the permanent site. The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip says that the establishment of the settlement and its expansion is part of an approved master plan.

TV Interviews Suspect in Elat Attack

TA0906160692 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Interview with Mu'ayyid Salim Mahmud Nasr, the man being held for the 30 May attack on a beach near Elat, by Shlomo Ganor at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Nasr] I am Mu'ayyid Salim Mahmud Nasr from Burqa' near Nabulus in the West Bank. I am a member of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, the western sector. I joined the organization during my stay in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah around May 1990. During my stay there I received training at several camps in the use of various weapons and in swimming, rowing, and so forth. When we set out for the operation, we traveled under Syrian passports via al-Sallum, Alexandria, Cairo, al-Nuwaybi', and then to al-'Aqabah.

[Ganor] What sort of training did you receive in Libya?

[Nasr] I was trained in the use of weapons, including Kalashnikovs, RPG's, guns, and grenades. I also was trained in different kinds of swimming and in rowing.

[Ganor] All that in camps in Libya.

[Nasr] Yes.

[Ganor] Did you meet with specific PLO figures in Libya?

[Nasr] I only met the PLO ambassador there. Once I also met the Palestinian ambassador to Kuwait after the Gulf War. He came there.

[Ganor] Did your instructions tell you to adopt a certain organization you belonged?

[Nasr] They instructed us to say that we belong to the Islamic Jihad.

[Ganor] Why?

[Nasr] So that we would cover up for brother 'Umar, because he gave us the weapons, has an organization in Jordan, and was supposed to leave upon our arrival. Brother Hasan and brother Abu-'Ali told us to give the operation a religious aspect if we were caught.

[Ganor] Who are they?

[Nasr] They were our trainers. They told us to say at the outset that we belong to a religious organization, not Fatah, in order to gain time.

[Ganor] Were the Jordanian authorities aware of your presence?

[Nasr] No, because we did not arrive in Jordan in our real names but with forged passports.

[Ganor] What happened from the time you left al-'Aqabah until you reached the Elat shores?

[Nasr] We left al-'Aqabah around 2130. The distance took some six to six and a half hours to swim. Each of us carried a container of weapons—some 18 kg—including a Kalashnikov and a LAW rocket. By 0130 'Azmi was tired. He was tired earlier because the brother was cold. He could not move his legs. We did not see him the night after 0130. We do not know what happened to him, whether he drowned, died, or went back. He was the leader of our squad. This made things a little difficult for us, but I and brother 'Atif continued until we reached the Elat coast. We arrived around 0500. At this time the six hours of swimming, gulping water, and exhaustion, we could not act properly.

[Ganor] Did the Israeli forces react quickly?

[Nasr] Yes. The entire clash did not last more than one hour.

Gaza Youth Tells of Shin Bet Torture, Dies

TA1006094392 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Jun 92 p 1

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] Samir 'Umar, a 17-year-old youth from the Gaza Strip's al-Shati' refugee camp, died 10 days ago at the al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza, a few days after being released from a Shin Bet interrogation. The circumstances of his death remain unclear.

A pathologist retained by the youth's family examined the body at the Abu-Kabir Forensic Institute and said that the physical evidence was insufficient for an unequivocal ruling as to the cause of death, but added that the accumulated findings indicated signs of serious physical pressure, which led to a general collapse of the body's systems. [passage omitted]

A deposition submitted to attorney Raji Surani, who heads the Gaza Center for Human Rights, by the youth's father states that when the boy came home, he complained to his family that in the course of his interrogation he had been starved, put in a "refrigerator," subjected to hot and cold showers while his head was covered with a sack, and been tied to a chair with his arms bound behind his back. He told his relatives that he had been systematically struck with karate blows to his testicles, thighs, spinal cord, and the back of his head.

When he was released he had trouble walking and dragged one leg behind him. His face took on a yellowish tinge. He had lost a lot of weight, and he complained of stomach cramps, backaches, and pains in the testicles and legs. He was taken to al-Shifa' on 31 May and died after 15 minutes, before any medical treatment could be administered. [passage omitted]

Kakh, Kahana Hay Appeals on Elections Rejected

TA0906104592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Excerpt] A few minutes ago, the High Court of Justice rejected the appeals of both the Kahana Hay and the Kakh Movements submitted against the Central Elections Committee decision to disqualify them from taking part in the upcoming Knesset elections because of their racist stands. The two movements will therefore not run in the 13th Knesset elections. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 9 June carries a report by Betzal'el 'Amiqam on page 3 noting that "yesterday the High Court of Justice rejected the appeal submitted by the Medinat Hayehudim Movement—which demands that the Manning couple not be extradited to the United States—against their disqualification by the committee." "The report adds that "the appeal by the Malkhut Yisra'el Movement was also rejected. The movement was disqualified for technical reasons."]

'Terrorist Squads' Apprehended in Gaza Strip

TA0906175092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] The Shin Bet and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have recently uncovered in the territories terrorist squads suspected of having perpetrated numerous attacks.

A Fatah-affiliated squad was uncovered in the Ramallah District village of Qarawat Bani-Zayd. Its members are

suspected of firing at Israeli targets, planting bombs, and murdering Arabs believed to be collaborators.

In the village of Baytillu, another Fatah squad was apprehended, along with weapons and explosive charges.

Muqarrab 'Ali Salim, 76, was shot and seriously wounded by IDF soldiers this afternoon. Salim was from the Gaza neighborhood of Rimal, in which 'Atif Busaysu, the PLO man assassinated two days ago, was born. Our correspondent Roni Sofer reports that the elderly man was shot after an IDF detail walked into an ambush and was pelted with stones in the Rimal neighborhood, which has been in turmoil since hearing the news of the Busaysu assassination yesterday. The troops detained two Arabs suspected of having laid the ambush. A helicopter took the elderly man to Tel Hashomer Hospital in critical condition.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 9 June reports: "A youth was critically injured by IDF gunfire in Gaza. The soldiers fired at youths who were hurling large stones at them."]

Russian Military Delegation Completes Visit

TA1006045092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Excerpt] The first delegation of Russian military officials to visit Israel since the resumption of relations between Jerusalem and Moscow has completed its trip with a news conference in Jerusalem. The Russian generals came to Israel under the sponsorship of an American think tank, the International Security Council. Mark Weiss has details:

Although this week's visit by the Russian generals was unofficial, the group were given extensive briefings by the Israel Defense Forces and taken on a helicopter tour of Israel's strategic points. The Russian team consists of seven serving officers, headed by a former civilian deputy minister of defense of the Soviet Union. The Israeli delegation was made up of 11 senior Army and Air Force reserve generals and the former minister of science, Knesset Member Yuval Ne'eman. During the three-day conference held in Jerusalem, the two sides discussed the changing world environment brought about by the collapse of the former Soviet Union and its impact on the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Levi Discusses Cooperation With Zambian Delegation

TA0906111192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Excerpt] A meeting between Foreign Minister David Levi and a delegation of ministers and senior officials from Zambia ended a short time ago. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports:

The Zambian delegation is headed by Legal Affairs Minister Rodger Chongwe and includes the ministers of health and of agriculture and fisheries, as well as senior officials. Foreign Ministry officials told me that the delegation also has four women who hold senior posts. Zambia is asking for assistance in the development of water resources, agriculture, training professional manpower, joint research, etc. It has already been agreed that Israel will send a survey team to study Zambia's needs and how Israel can help it. Our first envoy there will be Dr. Daniyel Reshef, an eye expert.

Foreign Minister David Levi told the Zambians that Israel is calling on the developed world to assist Africa. Levi noted that the world is now busy aiding the CIS countries, while Africa has been forgotten. Levi said that the world must be reminded that the black continent also needs assistance. Israel can serve as a bridge to Africa and will do everything to make sure that this comes about, Levi said.

The guests reviewed Zambia's economic problems. They have a large trade deficit despite the vast natural resources. They suffered a bad drought and their needs are extensive. Both countries cooperated in the past on two large farms. Zambia's legal affairs minister said that they have fond memories of that cooperation and hopes that this will also be the case in the future. Zambia also expects Israeli tourists. [passage omitted]

Royal Decree Calls Extraordinary Session 20 Jun

JN0906183292 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jun 92

["Text" of Royal Decree—date not given]

[Excerpt] We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, taking cognizance of Paragraph 1 of Article 82 of the Constitution, decree the following:

The Parliament shall convene in an extraordinary session as of 20 June 1992 to approve the following:
—Draft law on political parties for 1991;
—Draft law on press and publications for 1991;
—A draft law amending the youth care law for 1992;
—A draft law amending the Arabic Language Academy law for 1992;
—Draft law on graft for 1990;
—Draft law on economic crimes for 1990. [passage omitted]

Media Treatment of King Husayn Speech Reviewed

JN0906141792

[Editorial Report] King Husayn's speech at the graduation of a class of cadets from Mu'tah University in al-Karak on 6 June, filed as second ref, has been unusually highlighted by the official Jordanian media over the past three days. Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic and Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic carried a full recording of the 30-minute speech in all major newscasts on 6 June. The radio also rebroadcast the speech following its 1500 GMT newscast on 8 June and Amman television announced several times on 8 June that it will rebroadcast the speech following the 1700 GMT newscast on 9 June.

Amman dailies have also, since 7 June, been giving prominence to the King's speech. All local papers on 7 June carried frontpage banner headlines in red, blue, and black print quoting different parts of the king's speech. AL-RA'Y headlines read: "Husayn Defines the Features of New Jordan," "Jordan Is a Homeland That Rejects Division, Subservience, and Fragmentation," "Husayn: It Never Dawned on Us That Anyone Is Closer to Jerusalem Than Us." AL-DUSTUR headlines read: "Husayn: We Are at the Threshold of a Pan-Arab Revolution and Arab Renaissance," "We Said Welcome to Those Returning From the Land of Thirst, Salt, and Burning Oil," "Amman of Arabism's Sword Has Never Missed the Target Nor Has It Taken Off Its Pan-Arab Cloak." SAWT AL-SHA'B headlines read: "We Will Continue To Look Toward Jerusalem and It Never Occurred to Us That Others Are Closer or More Concerned for It Than Us," "Palestine Is Still the Closest Cause to Us and the Two Banks' Unity Provided a Sublime Example of Arab Unity." All 7 June local newspapers also published the text of the speech on the inside pages and all editorials on that day rehashed the king's speech. SAWT AL-SHA'B says that Jordan provides an example for the brotherly and friendly peoples to "be liberated from small dictatorships, injustice, and despotism."

Like the king's speech, all editorials and columns make no direct, explicit reference to the Gulf states. All direct implicit criticism to the Gulf states, particularly Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, as noted in the king's remarks on the "injustice" done to the Jordanians by "relatives;" the assistance the Jordanians rendered to "the brothers" in fighting "the forces of backwardness, ignorance, and disease;" the expulsion and return of people from "the land of thirst, salt, and burning oil;" and the issue of Jerusalem when he said "It has never dawned on us.-..that there can be any party that is closer to Jerusalem than us, or more concerned for it than us."

Commenting on the speech in his "Every Day" column in the 8 June issue of AL-RA'Y, Tariq Masarwah says: "Money may buy crimes like George Bush's crimes, but will not buy the legitimacy of pan-Arab action, the treasures of Jerusalem, or the blood of martyrs who fell in defense of its walls." AL-RA'Y editorial on 8 June, criticizes "those who have employed the Gulf crisis to establish a hostile alliance." It associates "some backward people in this nation" with ignorance, arrogance, and oppression, and accuses "the defeated ones" of continuing to "insult us" in "betrayal" of the nation. AL-RA'Y 9 June editorial, seems to blame "some of the brothers" for the failure of Jordan's efforts to effect a pan-Arab reconciliation.

The king's 6 June speech was noteworthy for its strong, impassioned, confident tone and sharp implicit criticism of the Gulf states. It was interrupted several times by cheers and applause. State-run Jordanian broadcast media continue to highlight the king's speech in their major newscasts, citing "local, Arab, and foreign media" reports. In a 10-minute report carried as first item in the 1100 GMT newscast on 9 June, Amman radio broadcasts two interviews with London-based Arab journalists who praise the king's speech. All such reports extensively cite the Jordanian press editorials on the issue.

AL-RA'Y Supports King's Speech

JN0906144092 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Jun 92 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "The Voice of Husayn, the Voice of Honest Arabs"]

[Text] It seems that we always have to conduct this persistent task of dotting the i's because some people in this Arab homeland, and in the absence of this task, become unable to differentiate between glory and shame, between being with the nation or against it, or between being with the enemy or against it. Therefore, His Majesty King Husayn's speech at Mu'tah came to dot the i's so that anyone who wished to forget or be unconscious would not do so. Moreover, this dotting of the i's came

so that no one could slander us, accuse us of his own failings, or throw brittle stones at us from his own collapsing glass house.

This country, with its leadership and people as well as its press and children, has extended its hand to all its brothers after the alliance ended its barbaric crime against Iraq and its nation. This country has called loudly, with an open mind, a keen willingness, and pan-Arab sufism for the need to start a process of pan-Arab reconciliation that will alleviate the nation's pains and somewhat bridge the gaps through which enemies have penetrated into our dreams and ambitions. Not a long time passed before we were amazed to see that some of the brothers believed that our call stemmed from fear or that we are trying to turn a page which as we know should remain open or that all the deviations and betrayals which have accumulated on this page should be revealed to our children, our children's children, and to all our generations so that the nation would come to know all what the deviators had done. This page should remain open so that all the faces will be unmasked, and everybody's intentions, and connections will be exposed. Then, the homeland and nation will mercilessly take into account all those who have destroyed the work and dreams over one century and have spent lavishly on the enemies' armies to slaughter our ambitions, children, elders, cities, villages, and traditions.

King Husayn's resounding voice at Mu'tah is not only the voice of all the Jordanians. It is the voice of all Arabs, some of whose children were dragged into the pit of injustice, have ferociously resisted such a fall, or have from the beginning made it their duty to warn against it, and expose its dimensions, and call for an Arab solution to an Arab crisis, the rejection of which has led to a real tragedy from which no one has escaped.

We are not of those who bargain on the homeland and the nation and sell their honor and pride. We were not defeated by temptations and our pride was not tamed by pressures. We are the ones who kept their heads high, our faces unblemished, and our affiliation free from any weakness, deviation, or deals. King Husayn has spoken in our name, in Jordan, and on behalf of the Arab arena which is now reorganizing itself. It will take into account all its enemies who will not be saved by their accounts and assets. None of them will be spared from the wrath of God, the nation, and history.

Jordan 'Closest to Holy Jerusalem'

JN0906151892 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Jun 92 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "We Are the Closest to Holy Jerusalem"]

[Text] It is well-known that the legitimacy of the nation's leadership does not come through charity, bribes, the stick and carrot policy, or by possessing enormous wealth which is the right of the nation's sons in the first place. Indeed, it comes through carrying the nation's message with sincerity and faithfulness and through respecting the nation's pan-Arab and fateful hopes, aspirations, and goals. The legitimacy of the leadership comes from living the nation's suffering, worries, and pain, and sacrificing what is dear and precious in order to defend its honor, dignity, and sovereignty and to protect its holy places and higher interests from the designs of the coveters.

Moreover, the true leadership gains its legitimacy from the ability to provide political and social security and stability, as well as the means for prosperity, progress, and good living.

It is well-known that al-Husayn Bin-'Ali, the great Hashemite savior, is the one who fired the first bullet of salvation from Ottoman despotism in order to gain freedom, independence, unity, and the Great Arab Revolt.

The late 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn [King Husayn's grandfather] is the one who sacrificed his pure soul and blood for the sake of Jerusalem.

Al-Husayn Bin-Talal and his brave Jordanian Army are the ones who saved blessed Jerusalem from the colonialist, Zionist invasion in 1967 [as published].

In light of these facts, which cannot be denied by a brother, a friend, or an enemy—and as His Majesty King Husayn has said—it never occurred to us that others are closer to Jerusalem than us or more concerned for it than us.

Therefore, as his majesty has emphasized, we will continue to look toward Jerusalem and we will spare no efforts to liberate it from the grasp of Israeli occupation. As King Husayn said: We are on the threshold of a revolution that will revive the Arab revolutionaries. Our Arab nation has never accepted injustice.

Hence, Jordan, under the leadership of King Husayn, upholds the legitimacy of the message, the revolution, history, Arabism, and freedom.

It is time this nation, which is strong in terms of its human, economic, and political capabilities and potentials and in term of its glorious modern history, liberated itself from despotism and fragmentation, held on to God's teachings, unified its ranks, words, and stands for the sake of regaining the usurped Arab rights and stolen Arab territories.

Age of 'Slanders, Defamation' Should End

JN1006091492 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, prime minister, has asserted that Jordan always calls for unified Arab stands on any issue. He said: In the current difficult circumstances, we are in dire need of a unified Arab stand to confront Israel and the big changes taking place in the world. In a statement to Cairo AL-AHRAM published today, the prime minister said: If Jordan or

any other country seeks to adopt a unified stand on any issue, we would be in a much stronger position to confront our enemies than we are at present.

His excellency affirmed that Jordan will respond to any initiatives adopted by Jordan recently to bring viewpoints closer and to improve and strengthen the Arab situation. He added that these initiatives did not draw any response.

He said that the Egyptian masses are a brotherly people and dear to the heart of His Majesty King Husayn and to every Jordanian citizen. He noted that it is time to adopt common stands in the interest of Egypt, Jordan, and the Arab nation. He added that the age of slanders and defamation should end once and for all. He said: We, on our part, do not see any reason for the present situation with regard to Egyptian-Jordanian relations.

The prime minister said he hoped we would all move to positions whereby we can bypass this painful stage, noting that the stands should be reciprocal.

His excellency described Saudi Arabia is a sisterly country and the Saudi people as a genuine, deep-rooted Arab people. I believe that my message to the Egyptian people is a message to Arab people everywhere. It is time we stood together to confront the enemies and challenges.

The prime minister said the Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid aims, through his stands, at unifying the stands of the Arab nation. He expressed confidence in the abilities of 'Abd-al-Majid and his Arab course to achieve this objective.

Kuwaiti 'Slander' Against Jordan Denounced

JN1006104892 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Jun 92 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "There Can Be No More Abhorrent Sin Than Infidelity"]

[Text] The slander and abuse unleashed by Kuwaiti newspapers against the Jordanian leadership and people have neither amazed us, nursed our grudges, nor caused bitterness. These papers are blaming this Arab sanctuary for poverty, and are gloating over the economic and social difficulties it has been facing in the aftermath of the catastrophe that befell the Arab region due to the Gulf war.

This is because those who have chosen to see nothing beyond their noses, and to think that money can buy everything, find it easy to criticize steadfast and democratic Arab Jordan. This is particularly true since they committed the biggest offenses against themselves and their nation. These papers are engaged in abuse which we cannot bring ourselves to publish, thanks to our sense of propriety, and because its terminology reflects depravity and total vulgarity.

It was expected that those responsible for the grave catastrophe which befell the nation, and for the calamity that has plagued all the Arabs without exception, would persist with their deception and with their ingratitude to their kinfolk, if not even to their religion and to themselves as well. They are doing this through their continued efforts to elicit the foreigners' enmity toward all of us, and also by perpetrating practices that contravene the norms governing relations among countries, institutions, and people.

It is not strange that they stoop to this level of recklessness, nonsense, instigation, and slander, particularly since they are the ones who squandered their wealth and that of future generations, not to mention the wealth of the entire nation; changed the names of their streets and neighborhoods; and were about to change their own names and also the direction of their prayers. That is why they are insulting us with abuse that became anachronistic many years ago.

For our part, we will not ask what has happened to reason in Kuwait. We will not ask where magnanimity and chivalry and even where the most basic rights dictated by brotherhood have gone, after the Kuwaitis committed all that we have seen of the savage torture and oppression against our brothers and sons, who were killed and tortured by the gangs of the shaykhs whose identities are well-known to us, and also by the official establishment, which has completely lost its mind and accepted to be cursed in the annals of history, disgraced from now until eternity, and cursed from one generation to another. These brothers and sons were subjected to barbaric malice and denied man's most basic rights.

The big wound opened in the nation's heart by this extremely reckless Kuwaiti conduct and this unprecedented Kuwaiti disregard for pan-Arab fraternity and human ties, will continue to bleed and fester as long as there are people in Kuwait nursing delusions regarding wealth and the maintenance of the current state of affairs—people who naively believe that it is possible to buy the armies of superpowers with money and to use big powers to defend their privileges and shaykhdoms, which goes against the spirit of the age and the cultural and democratic values it cherishes.

Al-Hirawi, al-Sulh Address Security Forces

NC0906071692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Excerpts] On the eve of the 131st anniversary of the Internal Security Forces, various official positions have been expressed. The common denominator between these positions has been to confirm the voice of sovereignty and freedom and the role of the legitimate forces to protect the course of reconciliation and peace in Lebanon.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi addressed the individuals of the Internal Security Forces in a speech in which he affirmed that the government will pursue efforts to entrench national sovereignty in the south and western al-Biqa' so the state can spread its authority to all Lebanese territories.

He asked the Internal Security Forces to prepare themselves to deploy with the Lebanese Army to provide the people with security and safety and preserve the dignity and vigor of the homeland. He promised that the state will always be there to provide their needs. [passage omitted]

On the same occasion, Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh praised the discipline of the Internal Security Forces and the unity of the institution. He announced the government's readiness to meet the demands of the Internal Security Forces in accordance with the resources of the treasury. [passage omitted]

Further on Reaction To Israeli Attacks in South

Buwayz on 'Critical Stage'

NC0506061892 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz affirmed that the situation in the south is passing through a critical stage. The elections in Israel, he said, prompt the government there to create fear and the madness of war among the Israelis. It has a definite interest in disturbing the conditions in the south. Buwayz affirmed that one must exercise care and wisdom during this period.

He explained that he discussed all these issues with his Iranian counterpart, because he is confident that Iran also recognizes the seriousness of the situation and Lebanon's need for outside support to establish security and stability and liberate the south.

Comments on Meeting With President

NC0906124892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Remarks by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in response to questions by unidentified correspondents following his meeting with Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh in Beirut on 9 June—recorded]

[Text] I briefed his excellency the prime minister about the outcome of the Amman meeting and about the meetings held on its sidelines. We touched on the deteriorating situation in the south and ways to remedy it and the possibility of activating Lebanese diplomacy at all levels to contain the situation and to be ready for any eventuality. I also briefed him about my planned visit to Brazil, where I will attend the earth and environment summit, hold some official contacts, and meet the Lebanese community there.

[Correspondent] Do you expect the tense situation in the south to calm down?
[Buwayz] We are using every available means to achieve this, taking advantage of our international friendships. We hope we can best confront the intentions of the Israeli Government, which seeks to exploit the situation in the south to serve internal electoral ends.

Qasim Issues Statement on Resistance

NC0506094092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim, in a statement to the Voice of the Mountain, said that the resistance in Lebanon has succeeded in forcing Israel out of a large area of Lebanon. The resistance also blocked the sellout of Lebanon to Israel by thwarting the 17 May agreement [of 1983 between Lebanon and Israel]. He warned that inequality in the peace negotiations will lead to a solution favoring Israel. He recalled that the intifadah and resistance have proven that they are capable of achieving what politics cannot achieve.

Fadlallah on 'Another Invasion'

NC0506081492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Excerpts] In a radio interview marking the anniversary of the 1982 Zionist invasion of Lebanon, 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah affirmed that Israel is attempting to impose a siege on the south through attacks with all types of weapons, which is designed to prevent people from living in peace and to prevent freedom of action by the resistance. [passage omitted]

'Allamah Fadlallah noted that following the great victories achieved by the Islamic Resistance, attempts have been made during 1992 to create the appropriate atmosphere for preparing another invasion or an Israeli-Syrian war. Certain developments, however, may take place that will prevent this. He stressed that the matter is part of the U.S. plan to remove all obstacles blocking what it calls a peace conference.

His eminence explained that everyone must defend the land, water, and the future and promote the resistance, because the wounds in the Arab and Islamic body must be turned into action throughout the entire Arab and Islamic worlds.

Mufti Qabalan Meets President

NC0606072692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Statement by His Eminence Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents after his meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi in Beirut on 5 June—recorded]

[Text] [Qabalan] The purpose of the visit was first to greet his excellency the president. I have not seen him for some time now. Second, we discussed the situation in the south in general, and the situation in Lebanon in particular. His excellency, as usual, is devoting all his attention to the situation in the south, to the liberation of the south, to safeguarding the south. Naturally, the president has a responsibility, and his responsibility is to safeguard every inch of Lebanese territory. He is constantly watching all the developments, and all the Lebanese must cooperate with the authority, with the state, to put an end to everything that is taking place in our southern arena.

[Correspondent] Your eminence, there was fear in the past few days about the danger of an Israeli invasion or an aggressive action. In your view, is there still such a fear?
[Qabalan] Israel is not contemplating an invasion these days, but its aggression is continuing against the land and people. This aggression is possibly more dangerous than invasion, because the outcome of shelling is displacement, destruction, killing, the burning of crops, and instability throughout southern Lebanon. This shelling is more dangerous than any invasion.

[Correspondent] Have you discussed the question of the Army deployment in all liberated areas?
[Qabalan] The Army is fulfilling its duty. The Army is ready to seize any opportunity to deploy. The Lebanese Army is ultimately the salvation of all the Lebanese in all Lebanese territory.

[Correspondent] Your Eminence, have you discussed the social and economic situation in the southern suburb of Beirut?
[Qabalan] The social situation awaits positive solutions and foreign aid. This will enable officials to push matters in the right direction.

Further on Israeli Offensive in South

Flares Dropped Over Villages

NC0906183492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Israeli warplanes have been overflying the south, Sidon, and the mountains since 1930 today. They are dropping flares over Iqlim al-Tuffah and al-Nabatiyah.

PLO Orders 'Maximum Alert' for Sidon

NC1006044892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] The PLO command ordered its groups in Lebanon to declare a state of maximum alert in anticipation of an Israeli military operation that will involve Sidon.

An order issued by the PLO command expects this operation to involve air landing and a land advance on several axes extending to the Palestinian presence in Tyre and Sidon. The order also said that the expected Israeli military operation aims to destroy the Palestinian military presence, weaken the Palestinian role in the peace process, and deal a blow to the allied national and Islamic forces and the Syrian forces to force the withdrawal of the Syrian Army from Lebanon.

Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance sorties over the south throughout the night, particularly over Sidon, the nearby camps, al- Nabatiyah, and Iqlim al-Tuffah. The warplanes dropped flares and Lebanese Army antiaircraft guns opened fire on them.

Two Israeli gunboats were monitored cruising off the coast between Tyre and Sidon.

DFLP Claims Attack on Israeli Patrol

NC1006110592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] announced that at 0630 today one of its units attacked an Israeli patrol comprising 20 soldiers and two vehicles in (Tallat al-Mayazin) near Zawtar in the occupied security strip.

The DFLP issued two statements after the operation saying that the unit attacked the enemy patrol with a hail of machine-gun fire, grenades, and rockets, killing and wounding several of its personnel.

Israeli helicopters intervened in the ensuing clash, which lasted several hours, shelling Mazra'at al-Hamra', al-Litani banks, and the nearby hills and combing the scene of the clashes. The enemy's heavy artillery positioned in al-Zaffatah was also used to shell the area of the fighting, causing material damage and starting several fires.

According to the DFLP statements, the operation was in reply to the assassination of PLO official 'Atif Busaysu as well as to the brutal crimes perpetrated by the Zionist enemy against the intifadah's sons, the Lebanese south, and the Palestinian camps.

Hills in South Under Artillery Fire

NC1006111392 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] We received a report a short while ago that the hills of Mlita and Jabal Safi were under artillery fire from the occupation forces positions facing them since about 1300.

Sa'adah Reelected Party Leader; Others Announced

NC0906065092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 9 Jun 92

[illegible] was reelected for a third term as Phalangist party leader. He received 60 votes; his rival Dr. Samir Ja'ja' received 53. The Phalangist electoral body reelected lawyer Munir al-Haj as deputy leader. He received 59 votes, while his rival Alfred Madi received 54. Elie Qurdahi; Joseph Tutunji; Emile Farah; Ibrahim Risha; Georgette Anton; Antoine Ba'aqlini; Butrus Khawand; George Qassis; Joseph Sarkis; Khalid Sulayman; and Emile 'Id were elected to the Phalangist Party Political Bureau.

Ulema Grouping Criticizes U.S. Envoy's Statement

NC0506071192 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] The Muslim Ulema Grouping in Lebanon commented about the statement made by U.S. Ambassador in Beirut Ryan Crocker following his meeting with Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh. In this statement, Crocker called for ending resistance operations and disarming the resistance in implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement.

The Muslim Ulema Grouping viewed this statement as interference in Lebanon's internal affairs to the point of deciding what the Lebanese Government must or must not do. The grouping maintained that the statement treats the resistance as a militia, ignoring the fact that it is not a militia and is not covered by the provisions of the al-Ta'if agreement. It noted that Crocker, his State Department, and his government should have pressured Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon in implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. The grouping stressed that the resistance option is the option of the Lebanese people for the liberation of their territory, and Crocker must understand this.

Speaker al-Husayni Returns From Damascus Talks

NC0506055592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni held talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday evening. Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam also attended the talks. The meeting lasted from 1830 until 2200. Speaker al-Husayni returned to Beirut at 0030. SANA reported that the talks dealt with the clashes that have been going on for two weeks in south Lebanon.

Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh is scheduled to visit Damascus tomorrow for talks with senior Syrian officials.

Foreign Minister Buwayz Leaves for Earth Summit

NC0906175892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left for Brazil today to attend the earth summit in Rio de Janeiro. He will represent President Ilyas al-Hirawi. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Receives Lebanon's Buwayz in Amman

JN0806064092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz at his place of residence in Amman yesterday afternoon.

The talks centered on the continuous Israeli bombardment of Lebanon, and its repercussions on the peace process and on security and stability in the region.

Qaddurah Reelected People's Assembly Speaker

JN0806142792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Summary] The People's Assembly held a meeting this morning, led by Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah. 'Ali al-Khalil, minister of state for the People's Assembly affairs, also was in attendance. The meeting was devoted to electing by secret ballot the Assembly's Bureau, which groups together the Assembly speaker, his deputy, two secretaries, and two controllers.

'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah was elected Assembly speaker, Muhammad 'Adil Jamus was elected deputy speaker, Shams al-Din Qannut and Muhammad Sa'd were elected Assembly secretaries, and Marwan Shaykhu and Ghassan Rajab were elected Assembly controllers.

Cabinet Briefed on 'Positive Results' in Amman

JN0906154292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Damascus—The Cabinet met at 1300 today under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. It was briefed on the work of the Services and Economic Committees. It also made a general review of the latest developments in the region.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' briefed the Cabinet on the positive results yielded at the four-way meeting in Amman which will help strengthen coordination and cooperation among Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the PLO. [passage omitted]

'Some Arabs' Turning 'Blind Eye' to Israel

JN0906155892 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 2 Jun 92 p 1

[Article entitled "The Liberation of the Will" by Muhammad Khayr al-Wadi]

[Excerpts] The Zionists are now celebrating the 25th anniversary of their usurpation of Jerusalem and declaring it the unified capital of Israel.

The Israeli leaders are using the occasion to underscore their aggressive plans and reveal their hidden expansionist schemes. [passage omitted]

Thus, the Zionists have disclosed most of their expansionist plans and unmasked their intentions; everything has become as clear as day.

The problem is that some Arabs are turning a blind eye to this aggressive Zionist uproar; they do not want to see this harsh and painful reality. Not only this, but these Arabs are using their poor imagination to weave an imaginary situation lending a velvet glove to the bloody claws of Zionism, a situation covering the ugly, criminal features of Zionism with flowers, and turning the monstrous Zionist dragon, which wipes out existence and spoils life, into a peacemaker, and a builder of bonds of brotherhood, understanding, and friendship.

And some other parties believe that this dragon is no threat to them. They think that it will leave them alone if they leave it do whatever it likes in other regions, and if they refrain from annoying it or inflaming its revenge and rancor.

And yet other parties have become frightened and horrified by the sight of this dragon. Shaken and trembling, they became overwhelmed by despair, defeatism, and surrender. In this situation, they resemble a sheep that gave itself up to the butcher, horrifyingly and miserably awaiting its inevitable fate.

Fortunately, however, these groups, though numerous, do not represent the weight of the Arab nation, nor do they decide the fate and course of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Zionists have made frantic attempts to mislead Arab awareness, frustrate Arab will, and destroy the strength and confidence in the Arabs. If these campaigns hit some limbs and extremities of the Arab body, they fail to reach the heart, the thinking mind, and the living conscience of the Arab nation.

This heart, whose stronghold is Damascus, is still safe and healthy. It is beating forcefully, and pumping life, hope, and confidence into the veins of the Arab nation.

And this mind, whose central base is leader al-Asad, is too strong to be broken by the enemies. It stood like a mountain against the campaigns of sabotage, deception, obliteration, and distortion. [passage omitted]

The disaster which the Arabs are facing today is huge, no doubt. But the heritage, wealth, and capabilities of this great nation provide the objective basis for overcoming this catastrophe, eradicating its causes, and cleansing the Arab land from its aftermath. We only have to mobilize these capabilities, unify our vision and position, renounce differences, and rid ourselves of the illusion that Zionism targets some Arabs, not all of them, and that it can be tamed by concessions and gifts. The Arabs liberated Jerusalem from crusader colonialism because their will was free. They can do the same thing if they, first of all, work to liberate the occupied part of their will. Foreign occupation will then collapse in all Arab lands.

Afghanistan

Militia, Mojahedin Engage in Fresh Battles

BK0906154092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1522 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Kabul, June 9 (AFP)—Fresh fighting erupted Tuesday between Uzbek militia and guerrillas loyal to holdout Mojahedin commander Golboddin Hekmatyar, shattering a lull in Kabul, witnesses said.

Reports said the militia attacked positions of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami guerrillas in the city's southern edge of Bala Hissar with heavy weapons.

The two sides exchanged tank, rocket and machine-gun fire, pounding a village in the crossfire, witnesses said. Details of casualties in the fighting were not immediately known.

The factions have held their fire since a brief skirmish last week between the Shi'ite Hezb-e Wahdat and Sunni-dominated Ettehad-e Eslami mojahedin factions.

Hekmatyar insists on the withdrawal of the Uzbek fighters from Kabul as a pre-condition to his joining the interim administration of President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi.

Mojaddedi, who is to hand over power to a supreme mojahedin leadership council in three weeks, rejects the demand on grounds the militia are needed for the security of this unpoliced city.

Some residents reported hearing tank fire and mortars.

The Kabul sky glowed bright orange after thousands of shells and tracer bullets exploded, witnesses said. No further details are available.

Hekmatyar Blames Ruling Council for Ongoing Unrest

BK0906133592 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Jun 92 p 5

[Text] Peshawar, June 8—The chief of Hezb-e Eslami [HIA] Golboddin Hekmayar has taken strong exception to the further reenforcement of militia forces in Kabul and blamed the ruling council for its inability to tackle the situation and restore peace in Afghanistan, according to Afghan News Agency (ANA).

In a statement issued from inside Afghanistan he said that the weakest administrative institution of Kabul had no control over the affairs nor could it stop further concentration of the militia forces in Kabul, so much so that they are unable to run their administration in Kabul without the support of the militiamen," [quotation marks as published] he said. At the same time, he lashed out the signatories of the Peace Accord and said that they were either insincere towards the said agreement or were unable to implement it.

He said that the reenforcement of militia was a "sheer violation" of the peace pact. He said his party was [illegible] the development and would show appropriate reaction for taking concrete steps in this regard.

The HIA chief rejected the claims that some officers of the Khaliq faction had joined Hezb-e Eslami.

He said his party condemned coalition with the Communists and instead advise other mojahedin parties to desist from forming coalition fronts with Communists.

Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, he said, demanded total surrender of the Communist forces before the mojahedin and honour its commitment of general amnesty announced to such forces.

He said that unlike some other mojahedin groups his party was against giving any political privilege to the Communist elements, least to speak of making coalition with them.

Hekmatyar regretted that some mojahedin had joined a government whose 10 ministers were holding American nationality and Green Cards and whose army chief had been a senior member of the Communist Party. He disclosed that the Communist Forces were still intact and the Defence Ministry was functioning under the directives of Communists generals like Nabi Azmi Momin and Baba Jan. "All the Communist personnel of the then regime are still on the pay role of the new administration and they are receiving their salaries," he added.

India

Delhi Protests Attack on Diplomat in Pakistan

BK0906132492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] India today protested to Pakistan over the attack on India's Consul General Mr. Dinkar Shrivastava in Karachi yesterday. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen that the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, personally spoke to his Pakistani counterpart Mr. Shaharyar Khan on the telephone and conveyed India's deep concern. The spokesman described the unfortunate incident as yet another attempt of harassment of Indian diplomats in Pakistan. He said New Delhi is awaiting further details of the incident.

Replying to questions, the spokesman said that Mr. Khan responded by saying that he was equally concerned over the incident. The Pakistan foreign secretary suggested that the two countries should put all such matters behind them.

Asked about the code of conduct for diplomats suggested by Pakistan, the spokesman said it was under the consideration of the Indian Government.

Spokesman on Austrian Foreign Secretary's Visit

BK0906151292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] India and Austria have expressed their desire for mutual cooperation in the Security Council. This was stated by the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi today at the end of the five-day visit of the Austrian foreign secretary, Mr. Gleissner. The spokesman said Mr. Gleissner held wide-ranging talks with the Secretary-West [division], Mr. Srinivasan, on matters of bilateral and regional interests. The Austrian foreign secretary called on the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faliero, and gave a letter from his country's foreign minister seeking India's support for locating the headquarters of the Chemical Weapons Prohibition Directorate in Vienna.

Premier Leaves for Earth Summit in Brazil

BK1006035292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] The prime minister is leaving for Spain on his way to Brazil for the Rio Earth Summit. Mr. Narasimha Rao, will reach Rio de Janeiro tomorrow after an overnight halt at Madrid. Mr. Rao is expected to be the first visiting head of government to address the summit after its formal opening on Friday.

Our correspondent reports that the discussions at the UN Conference on Environment and Development—UNCED—have brought to light points of agreement as well as differences among the participating countries.

Mr. Narasimha Rao will have meetings with other world leaders in the Brazilian capital. The most crucial, perhaps, would be his meeting with the Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif. Islamabad's support for terrorism in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir is likely to figure prominently during the meeting. Mr. Narasimha Rao is also expected to meet Chinese Prime Minister Mr. Li Peng and President Bush of the United States.

Congress-I Defeats BJP In Delhi Election

BK0906162892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] In the Lok Sabha by-election, Mr. Rajesh Khanna of the Congress-I has been declared elected from the New Delhi parliamentary constituency. He defeated his nearest BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] rival Mr. Shatrugan Sinha by 28,256 votes. Mr. Khanna polled 101,625 against as against 73,369 by the BJP nominee. All the other 123 candidates lost their deposits. Among them were the Janata Dal candidate Mr. Jaybhagwan Jadev who polled 10,638 votes and the Bahujan Samaj Party candidate Phulan Devi who got 753 votes.

In Giridih Lok Sabha constituency in Bihar, the Jharkhand Mukti Morchga candidate Mr. Raj Kishore Mehta was leading by more than 1,000 votes over his BJP rival after the second round of counting.

The Congress-I has won two of the seven by-elections [out of 19 held] to different state assemblies, results of which have been declared so far. The Congress-S, the Maharashtra Ekikaran Sammity, BJP, United Democratic Front, and Samajwadi Janata Party won one seat each, while one seat went to an independent. In Kerala, Mr. Kutti Ahmed Kutti of the IUML [Indian Union Muslim League] belonging to the United Democratic Front has won the Tanur assembly seat defeating his nearest rival of the Left Democratic Front by over 28,000 votes. The Narakkal assembly seat [in Kerala] has gone in favor of the Congress-S candidate Mr. V.K. Babu. He defeated his Congres-I rival by a margin of over 4,000 votes. In Karanataka, the Congress-I retained the Gadag assembly seat. Its nominee Mr. D.R. Patil defeated the Janata Dal candidate by over 26,000 votes. In Belgaum, the Maharashtra Ekikaran Sammity candidate Mr. Arjunrao Shishodekar defeated his nearest Congress-I rival by over 18,000 votes. In Goa, the Loutolim seat has gone in favor of an independent, Mr. Radharao Gracias, who defeated the ruling Congress-I candidate by a narrow margin of 500 votes. In Madhya Pradesh, the BJP candidate Mr. Mohanlal Shisir won the Budhni seat defeating his nearest Congress-I rival by a margin of 570 votes. In Andhra Pradesh, the Sanatnagar seat has gone to the Congress-I candidate Mr. Sesidhar Reddy who defeated his BJP rival by about 3,300 votes. In Tamar assembly constituency in Bihar, the Congress-I candidate Mr. Kalicharan Munda is leading over his nearest rival of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha by a margin of over 1,000 votes in the sixth round. In Uttar Pradesh, the Congress-I candidate Mr. Virendra Paratap Singh alias Munna was leading in Tilhar assembly constituency by about 47,000 votes over his nearest rival, an independent candidate, at the end of the fourth round of counting.

As already reported, the Election Commission has withheld counting in six of the 19 assembly constituencies which went to the polls yesterday. In some other constituencies, counting will begin tomorrow. The Commission in a press note said that a decision about the counting in the six assembly constituencies will be taken after receiving reports from the returning officers, chief electoral officers, and the observers of the Commission. A two-member team of the Election Commission reached Patna today to examine the alleged irregularities and booth capturing in Danapur assembly constituency.

Iran

Four 'Perpetrators' of Mashhad Riots Executed

LD1006104292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Four people involved in the recent incidents in Mashhad—the charges against whom have been proven

in Islamic Revolution courts—were sentenced to death. Their sentences were carried out this morning.

According to the Public Relations office of the Mashhad Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office, in accordance with the verdicts of Mashhad Islamic Revolution courts and as endorsed by the Supreme Court, the four—the main perpetrators of the riots on 30 May in the holy city of Mashhad—were hanged this morning.

The Public Relations office of the Mashhad Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office announced the names of the hanged men as follows:

1. Javad Ganjkhanlu, son of Valiollah, alias Mash Vali, with 15 previous convictions, including stabbing, drinking, robbery, and drugs. He spent most of his life in jail and was the leader of a gang of hooligans in a section of Mashhad.

The charges against him were: Creating terror and fear; depriving people of their freedom and security by using firearms; deliberately destroying and burning government centers and government documents; drinking; and plundering public property.

2. Gholam Hoseyn Pur-Shirzad, son of 'Ali Asghar. The charges against him were: Creating terror and fear; depriving people of their freedom and security by using firearms; destroying and burning government and private property; leading and inciting hooligans to create terror and fear; and destroying and burning places.

3. 'Ali Sadeqi, son of Abolqasem. His charges were: Creating terror and fear; depriving people of their freedom and security; destroying and burning public and private centers containing documents. He was also one of the main culprits in the attack on the Islamic Publicity Organization and the burning of the Korans and books at the organization's exhibition and shop and the plundering of public property.

4. Hamid Javid, son of Mohammad. His charges were: Creating terror and fear; depriving people of their freedom and security; 10 cases of destroying and burning government and private premises; nine cases of plundering government and private property.

Also a number of other individuals involved in the riots were sentenced to long-term and short-term imprisonment and flogging in proportion to their crimes.

Finally, the report by the Public Relations office of Mashhad Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office stresses: The charges against other principal perpetrators and those connected with the riots are still being investigated. The Hezbollahi ummah will be informed after the final verdicts.

President Meets With Culture Ministry Officials

LD0806090892 Tehran IRNA in English 0723 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 8, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sunday expressed satisfaction over the performance of Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and recommended the officials to release statistics on the ministry's activities in order to inform the public.

The president made the remark yesterday in a meeting with Culture and Higher Education Minister Mostafa Mo'in and his deputies where he announced that the government has taken measures to solve problems of universities.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope that universities and research institutes will be provided with modern scientific facilities.

Meanwhile, in a report to the president, Mo'in said in the past three years the number of students in state universities reached 400,000, an increase of 220 percent over 1979.

In private sector, the figure was 700,000, an increase of 40 percent over the same period.

At present there are 137 research centers throughout the country, Mo'in said adding, dlrs. 50 to 60 million are spent on university labs and workshops and an addition dlrs. 20 million on libraries annually.

During the past three years 16 international seminars have been held in Iran and next year, in cooperation with the International Theoretical Physics Center, courses would be held in a number of regional countries.

Validity of Zorastrian Election Process Annulled

LD0706133992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Excerpt] [passage ommitted] The Guardian Council held a session this morning. It examined the election process—in the second round—for the Fourth Majles for the constituency of the Zorastrian religious minority.

The validity of the election process in that constituency was not approved and was declared null and void.

Cabinet Discusses Disaster Relief; Governors Named

LD0806084892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] The cabinet met on Sunday and reviewed important regional and domestic events. The meeting also heard a report by the interior minister about the damage caused by floods in the past two months in 17 provinces of the country and the funds and facilities needed for repairs and reconstructions in these provinces. The cabinet approved the allocation of funds needed for the

flood-damaged regions and also the funds needed for reconstructing half-completed projects from previous years, as well as flood-prevention projects. The cabinet also decided that funds are to be transferred by banks to the damaged housing and agricultural sectors.

At the suggestion of the interior minister and the approval of the cabinet, Messrs. Ahmad Khorram, Ali-Naqi Jahromi, Jalil Seyyedzadeh, and Ezhaq Jahangiri were appointed governors of Hamadan, Fars, Hormozgan, and Isfahan respectively.

Women's Affairs Official on Role in Revolution

LD0806080892 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] June 7, IRNA—Vice President for Women's Affairs Shahla Habibi today said that without the presence of women in the scene and their devotion the Islamic revolution would not triumph.

She made the remark at a news conference in the presence of foreign journalists.

Asked what rights the Iranian women had lost after the 1979 Islamic revolution, Mrs. Habibi replied the only thing they have lost is the kind of presence desired by the arrogance, in which some women were used as tools to propagate loose morals in the society. "And we are very satisfied that this presence has been done away with."

Meanwhile, she said, the most important thing the Iranian women have gained in the post-revolution era is maintenance of their social identity and status which has enabled them to further their social activities while preserving their human dignity.

She added that most of the women before the revolution were busy working only in educational and health sectors, but today they are present in political, economic and social scenes.

In the early years after the victory of the Islamic revolution the illiterate women numbered 14 million but the figure has dropped by 57 percent in view of the significance attached to their education, Habibi said. She concluded that women constituted 42 percent of university graduates and a total of 18 percent of the employees which she said was unprecedented in the developing countries.

Wheat Yield Expected To Be 9 Million Tons

LD0606171592 Tehran IRNA in English 1437 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Kerman, June 6, IRNA—Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari said here today that national wheat yield this Iranian calendar year (ending on March 20, 1993) was expected to be nine million tons, that is about four tons per hectare. The minister said a project for improving cultivation and production of wheat was successfully being implemented within the framework of a plan which involved a capital investment of about rls [rials] 10,000 million which, he said, would yield about 2.5 million tons more wheat than in the previous years. He said during the next calendar year the project would be implemented on 1.7 million hectares of farmlands in Iran, and that in 1994 the same project would be carried out on more farmlands throughout the country.

Kalantari said last week the national economy council had approved purchase of three million tons of fertilizers of which, he said, 1.2 million tons would be supplied by the petrochemical company of Iran, and the rest to be imported. He commented that the country is passing a new economic structure which, he said, required better emphasis on economic infrastrucutural projects. He said as a result of more emphasis on agricultural projects last year Iran's yield of wheat improved and therefore the country imported 800,000 tons less wheat than in the previous year. He added this year the country would not buy barley from foreign suppliers.

Kalantari said that last Iranian year (March 21, 1991-March 20, 1992) Iran produced 200,000 tons more sugar than in the previous year, and that sugar production this year was expected to be as much it was last year.

President Speaks on 'Revolutionary Values'

LD0606203592 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 6, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in a message to U.S.- and Canada-based Iranian students today that the Islamic Republic was successfully passing an era of national construction with full fidelity to the established revolutionary values. In his message to the union of Islamic societies of the Iranian students in the United States and Canada on the occasion of their fourth annual convention, he affirmed that the tremendous political success on the international scene, and success in the infrastrucutral programming of Iran, as well as the convening of the fourth term of the Majles were all evidences of the successful efforts of the executives and a token of the existence in the country of a stable and wholesome system. The president said to neutralize the obnoxious propaganda campaign of "the global arrogance" which aims "to prevent the daily increasing infiltration into the hearts of the world peoples of the values of the Islamic revolution the Muslim students would only have to rely on the teachings of the Holy Koran, and on learning, and moral and ethical self-enculturation, as well as they should retain their cultural identity and Islamic individualtiy."

Opposition Groups Kill Iraqi Military Officials

LD0506131992 Tehran IRNA in English 1212 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Sanandaj, Kurdestan Prov., June 5, IRNA—Opposition groups killed three ranking military and security officials of the Iraqi regime near Baghdad

Monday evening, radio of the Patriotic Union of Iraq's Kurdistan (PUK) announced today.

The radio said the officials were an army commander, a senior officer, and a famous chief of the Iraqi security organization, who had a major role in identifying and suppressing Saddam's opponents.

The radio also said Saddam Husayn has recently nullified any land ownership in tens of leveled Kurdish villages, whose inhabitants had been forcibly driven to refugee camps in the central and southern parts of Iraq.

It said Saddam has ordered the lands to be registered under the name of Muhammad Hasan Majid, brother of 'Ali Hasan Majid, the defence minister of Iraq. Saddam has authorised Majid to rent the lands to the Arab people, and collect the money on his behalf, said the radio.

It added that the main owners of these lands are mostly settled in Namoud camp in southern Iraq now.

New Iraqi Calendar Said To Sow Discord

LD0706130392 Tehran IRNA in English 1037 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Athens, June 7, IRNA—The Iraqi regime recently introduced a new calendar bearing the name "The Mohammedan Calender" which begins with the year of the birth of the Prophet 1466 years ago.

According to the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM, the new calendar was introduced on the personal orders of Saddam Husayn, who assumes that he is a "Mujahid" like those in the first generation of Islam.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kistralia, who has prepared the Iraqi calendar, has also given new names to the Arabic months linked with historical events, persons and sites.

The names of the 12 months in the new Iraqi calendar are Al-Nur, Al-Quds, Al-Karar, Azzahra, Al-Asra, Al-Qadsiya, Ramdhan, Al-Nasr, Al-Biya, Al-Haj, Al-Hijra and Al-Futuh.

Professor Sa'd Zallam of al-Azhar University told AL-AHRAM that Islam does allow dating of calendars linked with persons or personalities.

The dating of the calendar by the birth or death of the Prophet is an attempt to sanctify a person which is neither approved by Islamic Shari'ah nor by the Prophet himself, he said.

In 622 C.E. (Christian Era), Prophet Mohammad was invited by inhabitants of Yathrib, now called Medina, to leave Mecca and make his home with them.

The Prophet's departure from Mecca is known in Arabic as the hijra, or migration, and the Islamic calender is thus known as the era of the hijra.

In English it is usually abbreviated in a Latin form: A.H., that is Anno Hijrae. In this way 16 July 622 became officially 1 Muharram A.H. 1.

The 12 Islamic months are Moharram, Safar, Rabi' Al-Awwal, Rabi Al-Thani, Jumada Al-Aula, Jumada Al-Ukhra, Rajab, Sha'ban, Ramadan, Shawwal, Dhu Al-Qa'da, Dhu Al-Hijja. The current Islamic Hijra year is 1412.

In all the 1400 years of Islamic history, no Islamic leader has attempted to alter the Hijri calender. A recent attempt by Libya to date the calender from the death of the Prophet has not found any support elsewhere.

Another Islamic scholar in Egypt, Abu al-Vafa Ahmad Abdul Akhar, said the new Iraqi calender is an attempt to sow discord among the Muslims and to weaken the roots of Islam.

For the Muslims, he said, the birth, the start of the prophethood of Mohammad and his death are events of outmost importance, but yet they did not chose those happenings as the starting point of the Islamic calender, but the event of Hijrah.

Opposition Leader Calls For Embargo Against Regime

JN0606150392 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Paris, June 6, INA—The president of the Iranian Opposition Resistence Council has called upon the Security Council to impose sanctions on the Iranian regime owing to its terroristic practices abroad.

In a telegram sent today to UN Chief Dr Butrus Ghali and president and members of the Security Council, Mr Rajavi confirmed the necessity of paying heed to the issue of terrorism exercised by the Iranian regime abroad, referring to the abduction operation and bombs planted by Iranian diplomats on 4 and 5 instant in Istanbul in Turkey.

Mr Rajavi called for considering the topic of imposing oil and arms embargo against this regime as a punishment for its terroristic practices.

Reportage on Talks by Visiting Tajik Ministers

Finance Minister Meets With Velayati

LD0606175992 Tehran IRNA in English 1256 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 6, IRNA—Visiting Tajik Minister of Economy and Finance Ismoil Davlatov in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Saturday called for strengthening of ties and cooperation between Tehran and Dushanbe.

Velayati said the Islamic Republic was ready to deepen its cooperation with the newly independent Republic of Tajikistan and to support it in international events. The foreign minister also had a separate meeting with a Tajik

politico-cultural delegation comprising leaders of the Democratic and Rastakhiz (Resurrection) Parties and several prominent poets, later in the day. Referring to plentiful historical and cultural bonds shared by the two countries, Velayati said at the meeting that bilateral relations should be further strengthened in political, economic, cultural and communication fields. Velayati also warned against extensive political and cultural plots against the independence of Muslims and underlined the need for cooperation and solidarity among Muslim countries in the region.

Meanwhile, the need for revival and promotion of relations between Iran and Turkmenistan were discussed in a separate meeting between Velayati and visiting member of Turkmenia's Council of President today. Velayati called at the meeting for further expansion of cooperation bewteen the two countries in various fields especially within the framework of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization].

Conveys Message From Nabiyev

LD0606213192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Tajik Economics Minister Davlatov today gave President Hashemi-Rafsanjani a written message from Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev. The message expresses thanks for noting Tajikistan's problems and expresses delight over expanding both countries' friendly resolutions. In his message, the Tajik president also expresses the hope that his first foreign trip will be to the Islamic Republic of Iran. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said at this meeting: We would like to give special priority to Tajikistan in our relations with the region's countries. We are prepared to see political, cultural, and economic cooperation between both countries expand.

Education Minister Meets With Najafi

LD0606213792 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 6, IRNA—Visiting Tajik Minister of Education Zakir Vazirov discussed with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad 'Ali Najafi Tehran-Dushanbe cultural cooperation today. On the basis of an agreement between Iran and Tajikistan on exchange of students Najafi said Iran's Education Ministry was ready to accept Tajik students at teacher-training colleges of Iran, as well as offer them intensive short term Persian language courses. The Iranian minister also offered to present a complete set of Iranian elementary and high school textbooks for the expert evaluation of Tajik educators. Najafi said that the people and government of Iran were interested to have a role in the development of Tajikistan, especially in cultural and educational fields. Vazirov, who is in Iran for the third anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's demise, observed that Tajikistan needed Iran's help in various fields including the teaching of Persian language. He also noted that Iran can play a role in various educational and cultural fields and have a more useful cooperation with Tajikistan.

Signs Memorandum of Understanding

LD0706134592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] According to a memorandum of understanding signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and the Republic of Tajikistan, both countries will cooperate in the field of joint scientific and cultural cooperation, including exchanging lecturers and students; exchanging books and publications; reviving cultural heritage; and offering bursaries to Tajik students.

The Tajik culture minister—who signed the memorandum of understanding during his meeting with our country's culture and highter education minister—also called on the IRI's Ministry of Culture and Higher Education to help establish a university in Dushanbe.

During the meeting, our country's culture and higher education minister called for further cooperation and a further exchange of views between the lecturers and students of both countries.

Television Programs Broadcast to Tajikistan

NC0706152392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] A few Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran programs were carried by Tajikistan television via satellite last night. In its headlines, Tajikistan news carried a report about the establishment of a direct satellite link with Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It also carried some clips of a direct relay from Tehran.

The head of the Tajik Radio and Television expressed his pleasure of establishing the direct visual link between the cities of Tehran and Dushanbe, saying: We thank Almighty God that after nearly 70 years, we have resumed our link with our cultural past.

Tajik television will now be able to receive Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran programs directly and can take steps to select the programs it wants to disseminate.

It has also been decided that this week, VIRI transmissions will be strengthened and that Tajikistan will be able to receive them via medium wave.

Tabriz Hospitals To Treat Nakhichevan Wounded

LD0606221492 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Those wounded in the war in the autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan will be treated in Tabriz hospitals. After Foreign Ministry adviser Sheykh Attar's visit to the autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan and Nakhichevan President Heydar Aliyov's request that

Iran admit those wounded in clashes between the Nakhichevan Republic and Armenia, a group of those wounded on the Sadarak and Sharu fronts was sent to Tabriz and admitted to hospitals in that city for treatment. In an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent, one of the wounded people praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's assistance; thanked the people of Azarbaijan Province for admitting them to Tabriz hospitals; and called for continued material and moral support to the Muslims in the autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan. In line with the Islamic Republic of Iran's humanitarian assistance to the people of the Azerbaijani Republic, tons of food and clothing have been sent from Tabriz to Baku and Nakhichevan over the past two weeks to be used by the republic's Muslim people.

Goods Transported to Azerbaijan Since April

LD0706195692 Tehran IRNA in English 1542 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Astara, Gilan Prov., June 7, IRNA—Iranian trucks have carried some 3,500 tons of timber and iron beams from the Republic of Azerbaijan to Iran since April 16 this year, governor of this border town Hasan Reza'i said here Sunday.

Reza'i said that the transport of goods has been done under an agreement signed in Baku on January 29 by consular officials of the two countries.

The official, saying this was the first time that Iranian trucks had carried goods from Azerbaijan to Iran, noted that under the former Soviet Union, only Soviet trucks were able to bring goods into the country via Astara town.

Under the agreement, he said, drivers of either country can drive to the other country, using a special traffic card and facing the least customs formalities.

Daily Cited on Elchibey Election in Azerbaijan

LD0806080392 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 8, IRNA—The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' Monday commenting on yesterday's presidential elections in Azerbaijan Republic said that the Popular Front, having a greater chance of victory, has committed a major mistake by counting too much on the support of Turkey.

The daily's editorial said that leader of the Popular Front Ebulfez Elchibey lacks the insight needed for resolving the major problems besetting the country." Although revival of the spirit of "ethnic nationalism" and the establishment of the Popular Front at a juncture which led to the independence of Azerbaijan might be effective, "these will not by themselves resolve all the difficulties."

Hopefully the leaders of the Front have by now realized that "they should not expect a miracle from Turkey which is itself gripped by economic problems and by political dependence on the west."

The editorial concluded that the victory of the leader of the Popular Front "does not serve as good news for Tehran" but that Iran hopes that Elchibey coming to power will prompt the leaders of the Popular Front "to expand ties with Iran through a sound understanding of the situation of the region and to consider this promotion of ties in a way that ensures the national interests of the deprived people of the Republic of Azerbaijan and not within the framework of Tehran-Ankara ties."

Egypt's Musa on Importance of 'Good Relations'

LD0606215292 Tehran IRNA in English 1339 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Athens, June 6, IRNA—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has expressed hope on the start of dialogue between Tehran and Cairo to improve bilateral relations. Egyptian dailies Friday reported 'Amr Musa saying that "Iran is a significant and brotherly country and it is important to have good relations with it." Musa had met his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati during a Nonaligned foreign ministers meeting in Indonesia last month.

Meanwhile, the emergency Islamic foreign ministers meeting in Istanbul on 17 and 18 June will deal mainly with the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the Egyptian minister said, according to AL-AHRAM and AL-WAFD newspapers.

Yazdi Meets With Zimbabwe Supreme Court Member

LD0806090992 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 gmt 7 jun 92

[Text] Today, Ahmad Ebrahim, a judge, and member of the five-member Supreme Court of Zimbabwe, met with Mr. Yazdi, head of the judiciary, who learned about the judicial system in Zimbabwe. Mr. Yazdi then commented about the judicial systems and methods in the world and analyzed the differences in the judicial system in Iran before and after the revolution. He said: After the victory of the revolution, with the constant guidance of his eminence, Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to paradise—a great deal of work was done toward making the country's judicial system Islamic. The Islamic Republic of Iran's judicial regulations arise out of Islam. Mr. Yazdi added: We believe Islam has the richest sources of law and—contrary to the existing judicial methods of the world, which have faults and weaknesses—in Islam, individual and collective judicial rights are given equal weight, a truth that must be made known to all societies so that they may benefit from it.

Expanding Relations Discussed With Cambodia

LD0706201392 Tehran IRNA in English 1511 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA—Iran's foreign ministry director general, Mir Fakhar, discussed ways of

expanding Iran-Kampuchea economic, cultural and political relations with the head of Kampuchea's Supreme Council, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, in Phnom-Penh today.

They exchanged views over situation in the region as well as the current internal developments in Kampuchea.

Prince Sihanouk said that despite stumbling blocks ahead of him he would support the Kampuchean Muslims in the reconstruction of their mosques and their other quarters.

The Iranian official adverted to the shabby treatment given to Muslims in certain parts of the world and specifically denounced the mass killing of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the continuing dastardly attacks against Muslims in the occupied Palestine and in southern Lebanon by the regime occupying Qods.

Mir Fakhar voiced the concern of the Islamic Republic of Iran about the status of Muslim communities under the tyranny of the Zionist regime.

Labor Minister Reports Drop in Unemployment Rate

LD0606172192 Tehran IRNA in English 1006 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 6, IRNA—Labour Minister Hoseyn Kamali Friday [5 Jun] declared that the unemployment rate in Iran has dropped by three percent over the past three years. Speaking at the 79th session of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, Kamali stressed that present global developments necessitated structural changes at international organizations, including the ILO. Such changes should be brought about with due respect for just and legal standards aimed at promoting democracy, Kamali noted. He called for further attention to observation of human rights in the occupied Palestine, Lebanon and Bosnia-Hercegovina. The minister also underlined the importance of technical know-how in developing countries and called for further assistance of international organizations in this regard. The 22-day session started its work in Geneva last Wednesday with participation of representatives from 150 countries.

Tourism Generates Over $100 Million in Revenues

LD0706194592 Tehran IRNA in English 1507 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA—Tourism brought upwards of 100 million dollars in revenue to Iran over the Iranian calendar year 1370 (ending on March 20, 1991), according to Iran's Deputy Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister for Tourism Morteza Haji here today.

Haji told IRNA that about 249,000 foreign tourists visited Iran during the year 1370 (March 21, 1991-March 20, 1992), up by some 53 percent as compared to the preceding year. Tourists who visited Iran over the past three years were 36 percent more than predicted in the first five-year development plan, he added. During the same year about 1.1 million Iranian tourists and pilgrims visited various foreign countries, Haji said.

Elsewhere he said some 100 hotels were under construction in different Iranian cities, and that some 12,000 bedrooms would be added to the current 32,000 bedrooms of hotels and guest houses once they are completed.

An Iran-touring exhibition is to be held for the first time here 22-30 June, he added.

According to the tourism official priority has been given to the expansion of cultural and economic ties with Muslim countries in order to show the Islamic works of art and the Islamic civilization to incoming tourists, and thereby offset the negative elements in the encounter with non-Islamic cultures.

He said Iran was ready to exchange tourists with the Islamic countries, and added that authorization had already been issued for the arrangement of group tours to Egypt.

UN Commission Supports Silk Road Railway

LD0706194892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1002 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Transportation ministers from the Asian section of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [ESCAP] are offering support for an Iranian plan to link Asian railroads to Europe via Iran.

This Asian support for Iran's plan demonstrates the important role of railroads in regional trade and commercial activities in Asia. ESCAP is the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Implementing the project will facilitate transporting goods from the Islamic Republic of Iran and other states to the CIS and Central Asia. The railroad will facilitate expanding relations between countries situated along the silk road.

On the other hand, with the completion of the two-way rail link between Bafq and Bandar-e 'Abbas, it is foreseen that these railways will play a significant role for both our country and CIS states to move goods to international markets. Connecting national railways to the Persian Gulf will facilitate significant economic changes and enhance commercial progress for countries in the region.

The speedy implementation of this project will benefit regional countries. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes other countries' cooperation in implementing the project.

Given that linking Iranian railways to the CIS lines will benefit all the regional states and the Persian Gulf

littoral states—enabling them to expand their economic and commercial ties—it is anticipated that these other states will assist the Islamic Republic of Iran in providing funds for the project and establishing the railways.

It is evident that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not view expanding economic and commercial ties with neighboring states only from an economic point of view, which is but one factor in expanding regional friendship, peace, and stability. That is why the Islamic Republic of Iran will always welcome scientific and technical cooperation and joint economic investment toward expanding mutual ties on the basis of goodwill and fraternity.

Imports, Exports Rise at Southern Ports

LD0706200492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] The level of imported goods off-loaded and on-loaded at the country's southern ports last year [Iranian year ended 20 March 1992] was 17 million tons, representing a 7 percent increase over last year. Export levels from these ports during the same period was 2.1 million tons, an 86-percent rise over last year. Mr. Madad, shipping and ports organization director, made this announcement during an interview with reporters. Madad said the country's northern ports have a total import-export capacity of 2.6 million tons, but because merchants are not aware of this capacity these ports are being under utilized.

The total amount of imports into the ports of Anzali and Nowshahr last year was 600,000 tons, while total export volume was nearly 200,000 tons. Madad recommended that merchants make more use of the country's northern ports for imports and exports in view of their proximity, lower transport costs, and higher safety levels.

At present, Madad said, two ships sail between the Caspian Sea between the ports of Azerbaijan and Iran, between Turkmenistan and Iran and that soon another ship will join the fleet. A shipping line has also begun operating between Iranian Caspian Sea ports and the port of (?Oktyabr) in Kazakhstan.

Stressing the economic sense of using the country's northern shipping routes, Madad said that the cost of transporting goods to Europe or the Far East via the Caspian Sea is much less than using southern ports and that the unused capacity of the northern ports will benefit all those wishing to use them.

Madad then said that some steps have been taken toward carrying passengers between Iran and the newly independent CIS republics. An Iranian passenger ship will soon begin using the Caspian Sea.

With respect to Iran's southern ports, Madad said that as a result of measures taken to modernize ports, losses due to delays in off-loading goods from ships were reduced by 15 percent last year.

Trade With Germany Up by 20 Percent From 1991

LD0706104692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0630 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] The Iran-German Chamber of Commerce and Industries announced: The volume of trade exchanges between both countries [the amount of exports and imports by both countries put together] in January of the current year increased by 20.9 percent, compared with the same month of last year, rising from 620 million German marks [DM] to DM750 million.

According to the Central News Unit reporter, according to the same figures, in January of the current year exports of non-oil goods by Iran to Germany exceeded Iran's oil exports to that country.

Over the said month, Iran exported DM72,540,000 of oil and DM79,600,000 of non-oil goods to Germany. These figures show that Iran's oil exports to Germany fell by 87.3 percent, while our exports of non-oil exports to Germany rose by 28.3 percent.

Vice President Habibi Departs for Earth Summit

LD0906163292 Tehran IRNA in English 1343 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 9, IRNA—First Vice President Hasan Habibi left here for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tuesday to participate in a summit meet of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

Before his departure, Habibi said Iran believes that environment and development are linked together and that environmental problems of underdeveloped countries concern the developed world on the one hand and their own underdevelopment on the other.

He also maintained that industrialized countries should pay the price for the development they have obtained at the cost of destroying the environment.

He said that blame for parts of the environment pollution should be put on wars happening in the world, triggered by industrialized countries.

Habibi, saying that current environmental regulations have been formulated in the absence of underdeveloped countries, called for their revision.

The first vice president is also to visit Ghana and Namibia during his stay abroad.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Environmental Position

NC0706173692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0344 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] Four days have passed since the earth summit convened, but reports do not give us any reason to hope for success. Despite the fact that the representatives of countries participating in this conference believe that they need to combat pollution, their practical position demonstrates the division that exists in doing something about it.

This division, which limits the possibility that an agreement will be reached, can also render the program to combat pollution ineffective. The best example of the rift is the U.S. opposition to the convention pertaining to the diversity of flora and fauna. The developing countries responded violently to this opposition.

To justify its opposition to the convention, the United States says it cannot agree to programs that will result in unemployment among Americans. Even though the U.S. position may not be indicative of all industrial countries, it can be taken as an example of industrial countries, which leads us to say that the North and the South disagree on environmental protection.

Due to the extensive nature of pollution and the fact that the means of its proliferation are beyond any individual state's control, the difficulty in coordinating international and domestic interests and objectives is obvious. The natural result is that these nations feel limited by international cooperation, leading them to oppose international plans.

The U.S. opposition to the aforementioned convention indicates that it is not prepared to restrict its national interests to ensure the larger interests of humanity. As President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in his message marking World Environment Day, ignoring cultural and human values and the lack of a sense of responsibility toward mankind and posterity causes environmental destruction and contamination.

Until the time comes that nations feel this sense of responsibility and abandon their narrow minded attitudes and align their national interests to the interests of the human community, one cannot be hopeful about environmental protection programs.

As to which countries are responsible for polluting the environment, almost all informed people are unanimous that the industrial countries of the North bear most of the responsibility. These countries use industries that pollute the earth, causing global warming and ozone-layer depletion. Their ruthless and voracious use of natural resources is the cause of ecological destruction and the extinction of many species of flora and fauna.

Despite this, when the issue of environmental protection is raised, these countries try to shirk from the enormous expenditures entailed by such programs. Developing countries are not blameless either regarding pollution. These countries are involved in these types of activities, however, in an effort to compete with the industrial countries, which are devouring the existing world resources.

We can say that the developing countries have played a very small role compared to the large industrial nations in eroding and contaminating the globe.

The developing nations, in reaction to the evasive activities of the industrial countries in shouldering the expenditure for environmental protection programs, demand that industrial countries provide ever greater assistance. The developing countries do not believe that they can pay for such programs and expand because of their limited capability. When the United Nations proposed the plan for combating environmental pollution in 1971 and approved an international strategy for expansion, it was believed that all nations would cooperate. It is more important than ever before that all nations cooperate to come up with a plan, because contaminating the environment threatens everyone. This means that all nations will need to coordinate their policies with the rest of the world.

We believe that the environment conference will only be successful when the industrial countries fundamentally revise their views about environmental protection programs.

Report Views 'Crumbling' 'Common European Home'

LD0606214692 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Report by correspondent Nawab Khan; "The 'European Home' Crumbles in the Balkans"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Athens, June 6, IRNA—The Europeans are no longer talking of a "common European home" which would have created in the long run a "united states of Europe."

Instead, Western newspapers and television screens are filled with news of divisions, brutal killings, kidnappings, hostage-taking, terrorism, refugees, ethnic conflicts, "butcher of Serbia", etc. The reports are not coming out from the Middle East or some far-off Third World country, but from Europe—from former Yugoslavia, Armenia and elsewhere.

Sarajevo and Dubrovnik, two of Europe's most beautiful cities, lie in ruins. About one million people have fled their homes in Bosnia-Hercegovina, thousands have been killed and a larger number injured in one of the most savage civil wars of this century.

The miserable failure of the European Community to adopt a common policy during the Persian Gulf war and

in the present Yugoslav crisis proves that the Twelve prefer individual national interests to a joint foreign policy. The fact, however, is that Europe has never been united. The entire history of the continent comprises wars and struggles between vested groups for their military, economic and political positions. Mindless violence and ethnic strife are also not new for Europe. Twice during this century, European contradictions have exploded into world wars causing tremendous destruction and sufferings affecting the entire world.

On the ashes of the Second World War emerged the bipolar system led by the U.S. and the former Soviet Union, creating the division of Europe into two opposed military, political, economic and ideological blocs, thus weakening Europe's position as a whole. In light of dramatic changes that led to the collapse of communism and the Soviet Union, Europe is now again being shaken by deep political and economic changes. In the unipolar world, the U.S. is seraching for new openings and influence in Europe. The sanctions against Serbia, for example, was mainly inspired by the U.S. and accepted by a docile EC.

Europe is at a loss to defend its economic and political interests against the growing American hegemony. In the long run, however, U.S. influence could be countered by Germany, which is developing into a European superpower. Washington is watching the recent German and French military agreement with serious concern.

In former Yugoslavia, Europe is facing its most serious crisis since the Second World War. As the German weekly DIE ZEIT notes, "in Budapest and Tirana, in Sofia, Athens and Ankara the army is on the look-out." The paper warns that "from the Yugoslav war, a Balkan war could result."

The outcome of the recent Danish referendum that rejected the Maastricht Treaty represents another serious crack in the European home. It is the most profound expression of fundamental differences between the aspiration and wishes of governments and the people in Europe.

The structure of the European home has started crumbling even before completing construction.

Envoy Criticized for Remarks Praising Saudi Arabia

LD0706093992 Tehran IRNA in English 0743 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA—The Persian daily "SALAM" in a commentary Sunday criticized the Iranian ambassador in Riyadh for describing Iran and Saudi Arabia as "the two powerful wings of the Islamic world" and called on the Foreign Ministry to clarify its stand vis-a-vis the ambassador's statement.

Describing the post-1979 Islamic revolution relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia as "the most complicated issue in Iran's foreign policy," the daily said that the Saudi rulers in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war had no option but to reconsider ties with Iran. Tehran, too, had to welcome the initiative in light of the regional developments and the need for the Iranian pilgrim to perform the hajj rituals.

There is no argument that Tehran should promote cooperation with the regional Arab and Islamic countries, but in doing so one must take into account all factors.

What is being witnessed is giving more and more concessions to Saudi Arabia and retreating from our previous positions, it said.

SALAM further criticized Iran's Amabassador Mohammad 'Ali Hadi for ignoring the late Imam Khomeyni's guidelines on relations with Saudi Arabia. Imam Khomeyni once said "American brand of Islam" prevails in Saudi Arabia.

It is regretful that the ambassador makes such remarks in defiance of the imam's guidelines at the third anniversary of his demise.

Hadi's remarks could be interpreted as the official stand of the Islamic Republic, therefore, it is incumbent on the Foreign Ministry to declare its stand vis-a-vis his statements.

Salam also criticized simliar remarks by other Iranian officials now visiting Saudi Arabia praising Riyadh for renovating Muslim's two holiest shrines.

The officials have probably forgotten that the Saudi rulers have spent only a drop of their huge oil income on the holy shrines. The officials should remember that the Saudis have been neglecting the most vital issues of Muslims and are compromising with the world arrogance, the paper said.

Commentary Views Impact of Recent Kabul Events

LD0706110492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1005 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Unattributed "political" commentary]

[Excerpts] According to agency reports, the battles that erupted last Tuesday [2 Jun] in Kabul between the forces of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and Hezb-e Etehad-e Eslami, led by Sayyaf, have once again brought unrest to that city.

The reality is that the encounters during the past few days in Kabul are likely to have a negative impact on various mojahedin groups, especially since they may bring to a standstill political efforts by the mojahedin to solve their internal differences. [passage omitted]

The recent battles between two mojahedin groups in Kabul come at a time when negotiations about the ways and means of transferring power to the new leadership

council after the end of the two-month period of Sebghatollah Mojaddedi's Presidency still continue and so does the talks about the date and manner of holding elections in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

In fact, there remains a great deal of queries about the composition of the new Majles, such as the status of ethnic groups in the Majles and whether they can obtain the share they expect.

Meanwhile, the recent proposal by Mr. Mojaddedi about holding the traditional Afghan gathering of the Loya Jirga has led to ample debates in Kabul political circles.

Informed circles believe that—though the proposal seems to be an effort to elect the head of the Afghan Government and to supervise transferring power in Kabul—it may well be regarded as a substitute for the plan agreed by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Golboddin Hekmatyar for general elections.

In any case, if Afghanistan's political leaders and Jihadi groups fail to come to an agreement about that issue [elections and transferring power to a permanent body] and other important issues of the country—during the first months after achieving power—that country will witness yet a new round of disquiet and lack of stability, which would not be in the interests of the Muslim people of Afghanistan and their 14-year jihad.

Aid Sent to Afghanistan's Farah Province

LD0806090692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] In continuing assistance to the Muslim people of Afghanistan, on Sunday 15 tonnes of foodstuffs, a large amount of clothing, and two tonnes of medicine were collected as donations from the people of Iran and sent to the capital city of Farah Province.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepali Congress Wins Municipal Elections

BK0606114192 Hong Kong AFP in English 1128 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Kathmandu, June 6 (AFP)—Results from Butwal municipality Saturday gave the ruling Nepali Congress its 21st victory in 35 mayoral elections held nationwide, an election commission official said.

The Nepali Congress left its leftist rivals far behind. The main opposition formation, the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist), has won six mayoralties.

Poll results in Butwal were delayed because of repolling in some wards. One other mayoralty remains undecided.

Of 30,950 various municipal posts already decided, the Nepali Congress won about 55 percent, with rival leftist parties winning 29 percent, the official said.

The winners of almost 14,000 other posts have not yet been decided.

Official sources said 11 Nepalis died during the two-day municipal polling period, and more than 100 others were injured.

Opposition Claims 17 Killed

BK0906150792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1435 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Kathmandu, June 9 (AFP)—Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML) parliamentarian Chandra Prakash Mainali has claimed that 17 people died during recent nationwide local elections, reports said Tuesday.

Officials have said 11 people were killed.

Mainali, a member of the NCP-UML's politburo, was quoted as saying Monday that the ruling Nepali Congress, by dividing the country into 75 districts suiting its "political interest," had encouraged anger and violence.

"The divison of the localities (wards) under the different districts was unscientific and only met the political interest of the ruling party," he charged.

Political analysts said the designation of districts would give district council chairman tremendous power over local development programs, which could be used for political purposes.

According to results so far from the voting held late last month, the Nepali Congress has won just over half of the approximately 42,000 posts at issue, which observers say should leave it in a strong position for central government elections in 1996.

The NCP-UML has won about 26 percent of the posts.

Pakistan

Sharif Leaves for Earth Summit 10 Jun

BK1006064992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif left Islamabad for Brazil this morning to participate in the summit conference which will Begin in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday. On the first day, he will address the UN Conference on Environment and Development, as the chairman of the Group of 77. The prime minister will explain the position of the developing countries on the struggle against population growth. The conference is being attended by 178 countries.

Delhi Wants Release of 'Terrorists, Spies'

BK0906134592 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 9 Jun 92 pp 1, 5

[By Anwar Iqbal]

[Text] Islamabad—India has demanded the release of six terrorists and spies, all Indian nationals, in return for the Pak army personnel released last month. Islamabad is expected to return the Indians soon.

Government sources told THE NEWS Monday the Indian demand was conveyed to Islamabad when New Delhi released four Pak army personnel last month.

A captain, a junior commissioned officer and two soldiers of the Pakistan army had strayed into the Indian territory on March 13 this year. They were wearing their uniforms, had their identity cards with them and even their jeep had markings of the Pakistan army.

"It is an international practice to return such people to the country of their origin as soon as they establish their identity. We arrested eight Indian engineers in Sindh last year who had strayed into Pakistani territory. We released them within 24 hours but the Indians kept our prisoners for two months," said an official.

He said the four Pakistani soldiers were tortured at the Amritsar and New Delhi jails and had cuts and bruises all over their bodies. One of them had a swollen skull, others had swollen hands, feet and knee joints.

"And the Indians linked the release of regular army personnel with the returning of their terrorists and spies which is against international practice," he said.

The six Indians who are to be released in return for the four Pakistanis are Ravindra Kaushak, Rooplal, Mukha Singh, Mohatar Singh, Chanan Masih and Mahbub Elahi.

Pakistani officials have already identified and collected four of the six prisoners from different prisons. But they have not been able to identify Ravindra Kaushak and Rooplal.

The two names were given to Islamabad by the Indian intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing [RAW] through the Indian embassy.

The Indians had also informed Islamabad that the two agents were Sindhi Hindus from India and were arrested in Sindh. But Islamabad informed New Delhi that it had at least 150 such agents who came under this category.

Pakistani authorities believe they have the two somewhere in their prisons but are unable to trace them as they might have given their cover names while arrested. They have sought their pictures and more information about them from New Delhi to help them trace the two missing agents.

The third Indian, Mukha Singh, was arrested from Sindh in 1990. Mohatar Singh was also arrested from Sindh in September 1991. Channan Masih was arrested in Punjab in 1984 and Mahbub Elahi was arrested from Lahore on June 23, 1977.

The authorities claim that Mohatar Singh has confessed committing five major explosions in Lahore, Faisalabad and Multan killing 21 people.

Arrested in August 1990, Mukha Singh confessed he was trained by RAW and was launched into Pakistan for spying and sabotage.

Mahbub Elahi has already served 15 years in Pakistani prisons. A Bengali from Calcutta, Elahi was recruited for RAW by the manager of the Indian Airlines in the former East Pakistan in 1975. He came to Lahore in 1975.

He was involved in spying and recruiting local terrorists for RAW. Elahi was arrested while preparing to cross into India from Lahore. He was convicted and sentenced to 30 years in prison for spying.

Chanan Masih is from Khunda, Gurdaspur in Indian Punjab and was recruited by RAW om 1981.

The Pakistani authorities described him as "a down and out terrorist." RAW gave him special training for handling explosives. He was paid 30 U.S. dollars for each casualty he caused.

He confessed causing three explosions including the one at Sabzi Mandi, Lahore in April 1983 killing 10 people.

Chanan Mash was working under the cover name of Mohammad Siddique alias Channa.

The authorities say that the four convicted Indian spies would be released along with the two others as soon as they are identified.

Afghan Minister Says Talks 'Beneficial'

BK0906145692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] The acting minister for information and culture of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Mr. Siddique Chakri, has said his talks with Pakistani leaders have been highly useful and beneficial. He was addressing a news conference in Peshawar today. The Afghan information minister said the Government of Pakistan has assured all-out cooperation in the fields of culture, radio, and television.

Replying to a question, Mr. Chakri said the situation in Afghanistan is fast returning to normal. The government has taken steps for overall development and prosperity of the country ravaged by 14 years of war against foreign occupation. The Afghan minister lauded the role of the people and government of Pakistan they played in the Afghan jihad and expressed his thanks on behalf of the Afghan leadership for having supported the Afghan brethren in their hour of need.

The federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Abdul Sattar Lalika, hosted a dinner in honor of his Afghan counterpart, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Chakri, in Islamabad last night. The federal minister, in his welcome speech, said Pakistan will continue to assist

Afghanistan in its efforts for rehabilitation and reconstruction. Mr. Abdul Sattar Lalika referred to the historic socioeconomic and religious bonds that existed between the people of the two countries which, he said, could be further strengthened by media.

Speaking on the occasion, the Afghan information minister thanked Pakistan for its assistance and urged the world community to also help his country in its reconstruction. He said Afghanistan fully supported the struggle for the right of self-determination by Kashmiri people and said the day is not far off when they will have their rights as enshrined in the UN Charter.

Afghan Leader Expresses Thanks for Assistance

BK1006025292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, the president of Afghanistan's jehad council and Islamic government, has thanked Pakistan for its assistance in the restoration of peace and stability, as well as in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. He said this in response to Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's message, which was handed over to him by Sharif's special emissary. Prof. Mojaddedi expressed the hope that his government would succeed in resolving problems and rebuilding Afghanistan with the cooperation of Pakistan, other Islamic countries, and the international community.

Cabinet Meets on Sindh Events, Nuclear Policy

BK0906160592 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Excerpts] A Federal Cabinet meeting was held in Islamabad today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. The meeting was briefed on the situation in Sindh. The cabinet expressed complete satisfaction with the steps taken by the government to restore the law and order situation in Sindh and with the outcome of the prime minister's tour of the Sindh Province in this connection. The cabinet approved in principle the national education policy and constituted a cabinet committee to incorporate views and suggestions of cabinet members and provincial chief ministers into this policy. [passage omitted on details of cabinet meeting decisions on other domestic issues]

The cabinet approved a five-year extension in the term of the regional cooperation agreement under the aegis of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The term of the agreement will be from 12 June 1992 to 11 June 1997. The cabinet meeting reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.